

THE
SERVANT'S FRIEND,

AN
EXEMPLARY TALE;
DESIGNED TO ENFORCE THE
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTIONS

GIVEN AT
SUNDAY AND OTHER CHARITY SCHOOLS,
BY POINTING OUT THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION
OF THEM IN A STATE OF SERVICE.

THE SECOND EDITION,
CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

By MRS. TRIMMER. [Sarah]



L O N D O N:

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE Author of the following little work assumes the title of the *Servant's Friend*, which she hopes will be allowed her by those for whose use it is designed, as she writes with a sincere desire of promoting their interest and happiness, by pointing out the proper application of that learning, which is bestowed upon them through the benevolence of their superiors.

By the institution of Sunday schools, Christian knowledge is liberally dispensed to the poor, and many children, who would otherwise have been left in the most deplorable ignorance, will now be brought up in an habitual discharge of religious duties. But a time will come when each must leave the societies in which they enjoy the advantage of good instruction, and go out into a world abounding with vice and impiety; where they will meet with many temptations, and be exposed to the ridicule of the impious and profane.

Domestic servants, in particular, are liable to be engaged in a variety of conflicting scenes; it is therefore necessary that they should prepare themselves before hand to *resist evil*, and *bold fast that which is good*; instead of going to service, as too many do, with no other view but to their *worldly* profit and advantage. The connection between masters and mistresses and servants is of a very endearing nature; and the happiness of each depends in a great measure on the proper discharge of their

respective duties; the frequent neglect of which counteracts the wise designs of Providence, in appointing different ranks in society, and fills the world with just complaints. Heads of families lament that they cannot confide in the fidelity and affection of their domestics: servants allege, that they cannot look up to their masters and mistresses for examples of religious virtues; and that, instead of being considered by them as humble friends, they are regarded as mere mercenary slaves. To which side the greatest share of blame belongs, is hard to determine: but the *Servant's Friend* will venture to assure them, that, however fashion and infidelity may render many in superior stations unmindful of family duties, there are still numbers of masters and mistresses sincerely disposed to act with kindness and justice; who know when they are well served, and rejoice to reward merit: nor are such difficult to be found by those who prefer a quiet regular life, with moderate profits, to scenes of licentious riot and profusion; and who can be contented to remain in good places when they have met with them.

If any hints contained in the following pages shall contribute to direct the young and inexperienced in a proper choice of masters and mistresses, or tend to regulate their conduct in serving them conscientiously, the Author will rejoice in the idea of having been essentially useful to society.

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SERVANT'S FRIEND.

THOMAS SIMPKINS, when a little boy, was an exceedingly dutiful good child; the comfort of his father and mother, who were very industrious honest people: they taught him betimes to fear and serve God, and *to do unto others as he would they should do unto him*; and he paid such regard to their instructions, that he never neglected to say his prayers morning and evening, nor on any account missed going to church twice a day on Sundays, unless prevented by illness, or attending on his father and mother, if they chanced to be sick. Neither would he injure or vex any human creature, or hurt by design even a worm or a fly. When Thomas was about ten years old, his poor father died of a fever, which grieved him very much, and he feared it would break his poor mother's heart; but she was a good woman, and in a short time tried to overcome her grief, for she considered that God Almighty knows what is best for all his creatures; that it is sinful to sorrow like those who have no hope; and, as her husband had led a pious life, she trusted that he was gone to a better place, where, as he told her on his death-bed, he should be happy for ever, and she would meet him again, if it was not her own fault.

When Thomas saw his mother easier in mind, he began to be so too; though scarcely a day passed, in which the remembrance of his father's

tenderness to him did not draw tears from his eyes ; he missed him at every meal ; and, alas ! both he and his mother missed the fruits of his industry, which the good man did not spend at an alehouse, but constantly brought home to his family.

Fortunately for Thomas, he had been used to work from his infancy, and he was a fine sturdy strong boy ; he therefore, prayed to God to give him a continuance of health and strength ; and assured his mother that he would do every thing in his power towards earning his living ; and said, he did not doubt but that the Almighty would bless both her and him, as he had heard his father read in the Bible, that "*the Lord is a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless, if they put their trust in him.*" The poor woman rejoiced greatly at hearing her son talk in this manner, and declared her own trust in the Almighty, who she said *would never leave nor forsake his faithful servants.* She expressed great concern that the Bible, which the Rector had given them, and which contained so much comfort for the afflicted, was in a manner useless to her, because she did not know how to read ; but flattered herself she should get Thomas into the charity school the next year ; and, till he was able to read to her, she hoped she should find some good neighbour or other, who would step in now and then and read a chapter to her ; "for," said she, "*Thomas, we had better be without bread, than without hearing the word of God.*"

But though this worthy woman had such pious thoughts, it was not her wish to be reading and praying all day long, because she knew that it is the duty of poor people to labour for their food and raiment ; she therefore resolved to continue to be industrious, and to go out to washing and ironing.

ironing, as she used to do. Thomas also applied to a neighbouring farmer, who had long employed his father; and, as he was a very good boy, he gladly gave him work; so that he earned three shillings a week, all of which he carried home to his mother, who sometimes gained five or six shillings more; upon which they lived very comfortably, without being chargeable to the parish, which was a great satisfaction to them. Not that they were too proud to be beholden to a parish, or to go into a workhouse; on the contrary, Mrs. Simpkins often rejoiced that there was such provision made for the poor: but she said she thought it very cruel and unjust, for those who had their health and limbs, to receive what was intended for people who had no means of getting a livelihood; *it was not doing as one would wish to be done by;* and she was well assured, from what she had heard the parson preach at church, and from what poor John used to read in the Bible, that people who break that rule never will be happy here or hereafter; for JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, taught that rule, and therefore it is the duty of every one to mind it; and she thanked God it is so easy, that even such a poor ignorant soul as she might understand and practice it.

By thinking and acting in this manner, the good woman gained the favour of God Almighty, who blessed her with good health; and she had plenty of work to do; so that her time never hung heavy on her hands in the week day; for, when she was not at gentlemen's houses, she had enough to do to mend and make for Thomas and herself; and therefore, had she been able to read, would not have had leisure for it; but, let her be ever so tired, she never failed to say her prayers; for she said she should be afraid to go to sleep till she had begged God's pardon for her sins, and im-

plored his protection from all evil ; for who could tell, when they lay down to sleep, that they should ever wake again ; and what a dreadful thing it would be to appear before the judgment seat of Christ, without having made one's peace with God ? Thomas followed her example ; and after the fatigue of the day enjoyed sweet repose, till the crowing of the cock, the lowing of the cows, and other rural sounds awakened him, when he sprung from his humble pallet, and, having washed and combed himself, hastened to begin his daily labour,

Before Thomas's good father died, he had taught him to say by heart a few of Dr. Watts's hymns, which he used to repeat to himself over and over again when at work, and they afforded him great pleasure ; but he had so strong a desire to learn to read, that he knew not how to make himself quite happy without it ; and many a time did he pray that God Almighty, of his great goodness, would raise him up a friend to get him into the charity school. The Almighty is no respecter of persons ; he values not men because they are rich and great, but shews them his favour and loving kindness according to the lives they lead : He will grant the prayer of a poor child, as soon as that of the wisest or richest man on the earth, provided he prays in a proper manner, with submission to his holy will. God alone knows whether what we pray for is best for us or not : many things may appear to us desirable, which if they were granted would be very hurtful to us ; and therefore, if we pray for particular blessings, we must always pray that God will grant them if they appear good to his infinite wisdom, or else make us contented without them.

Praying for an opportunity of learning to read, in order to be able to know God's will from the
Holy

Holy Scripture, is such a petition as is very likely to be attended with success; and a child, who offers it with a serious devout mind, may form great hopes that God Almighty will order things so, that he shall some way or other have his request granted, especially now that there are so many Sunday schools; but should God ordain otherwise, he ought to rest contented, as he may be certain God will accept his desire of serving him, and not cast him off for ignorance, which he cannot help; but he must in this case be very attentive at church, and treasure up in his mind what he hears there, that he may think of it all the week, by which means he may learn enough to save his soul, if he will but live accordingly.

Thomas Simpkins's prayer was granted; for, about eight months after his father's decease, Will Fuller, being old enough to go 'prentice, left the school, and Squire Villars, knowing how industrious Mrs. Simpkins and her son were, very readily promised, on Mrs. Simpkins asking the favour, that he would get Thomas to fill up the vacancy immediately.

As soon as Mrs. Simpkins went home from the squire's, she kneeled on her knees, and returned humble thanks to God Almighty for his great goodness to her, and then sat down to work, full of the pleasing thoughts that Thomas would soon be a scholar; for she was certain he would spare no pains to learn.

At seven in the evening Thomas came home, with a great rent in the only coat he had, having unfortunately torn it with a nail: he had been lamenting to himself that he must trouble his mother to mend it, when perhaps she was already tired with a hard day's work; and that, after all, it would not be fit to go to church in. He entered with a sorrowful countenance, which soon cleared

up on his mother's informing him of the squire's goodness.

"Thank God! thank God!" said Thomas; "now I shall be able to read the Bible, and use a Prayer book at church. I will take a deal of pains, mother; and, when I have learnt well enough, will read to you every evening as you sit at work; how charming that will be!" Then, taking down the Bible from the shelf, on which it was deposited in a neat wash-leather case, he eyed it with delight, and dropped a tear of joy on the cover, which he wiped away with his hand, that it might do no injury; then, putting the Bible again in its case, he replaced it on the shelf, saying as he did so, "You shall not lie long useless as you have done:" Then turning to Mrs. Simpkins, "And when," said he, "dear mother, am I to go to school?"—"On Monday next," replied she. It was now Wednesday; and the following day he went to return thanks to Squire Villars, who bid him be a good boy; which Thomas, with great sincerity, promised him he would be; and then went to the taylor's to be measured for his clothes, as the squire had given notice that he should send him in Will Fuller's room. On Sunday Thomas took care to be early at church, and did not forget, when he was saying his prayers, to return thanks to God for granting him his heart's desire, resolving at the same time to improve the blessing to the utmost of his power.

C H A P. II.

AT length the wished-for day arrived; a whole suit of apparel was sent home for him; and Thomas, with a joyful heart, put on the coat of grey, the band and cap, and other articles which com-

composed the uniform of the school; and, though there was a badge on the sleeve of the coat, his pride was not hurt at it, as that of many foolish boys has been, for he considered it as a mark which distinguished him as one favoured by God, with clothes and the means of instruction, which many a poor, naked, ignorant wretch could not obtain. The eyes of his good mother now glistened with delight; and folding her son to her bosom, "Go," said she, "my dear Thomas, study your book, that you may learn your duty, and help your mother to learn her's; and be sure you don't get any naughty tricks." Thomas promised he would not; and expressed great concern that he could not continue to earn his three shillings a week; but the good woman declared, she would make any shift in the world rather than he should go without learning; and said, she did not doubt but God would grant her bread from day to day, if she used her best endeavours to earn it, and trusted in his mercy.

Thomas ate his breakfast; and his kind mother put into a little bag for him, to take to school for his dinner, a piece of bread and some cold bacon; and he waited with great impatience for Dick Long, a neighbour's son, who went to the charity school, and had promised to call for him. In a few minutes Dick Long arrived, and the two boys set off on their walk. Dick Long appeared very dull, which surprised Thomas Simpkins a good deal, as he was a remarkably brisk boy; but on inquiry he found, that Dick had been out a bird's nesting the evening before, and, having neglected to learn his task, expected to be punished, and was therefore afraid to go to school. Thomas Simpkins said, he never could get up his heart to take birds' nests, for he thought it was very cruel to spoil what the poor little creatures had taken so

much pains to make ; and it must be a great sorrow for the old birds to lose their young ones. " My poor father used often to ask me," said he, " how I should like to be carried away from my parents, as many poor little birds are ; and whether I did not think it would be a great sorrow to both him and my mother to be robbed of me ? Never take birds nests, therefore," said he, " Thomas, for it is not doing as you would like to be done by ; consider that, my boy." " Well," said Dick Long, " don't preach about it, I shall hear enough from my master ;" he then began to look over his book, to try if he could learn a little of his spelling as he went along ; but, unfortunately for him, as he walked without seeing his path he stumbled on a stone, and fell down, and made his nose bleed. In the mean time Thomas Simpkins amused himself with thinking of the happiness he should have in learning to read, and made hearty resolutions to avoid idleness and cruelty. What pleasure, thought he to himself, can there be in taking birds' nests, equal to what may be found in learning one's duty, and how to please God, so as to go to heaven ? At length they arrived at the school, and Thomas, advancing, made his bow to the master, who, pleased with his honest, good natured, open countenance, took very kind notice of him, and told him he was persuaded he would be a very good boy, and deserve the favour which Squire Villars had bestowed on him. " I hope my lad," added Mr. Allen, (which was the school master's name) " that you understand for what purpose you are sent to this school ;" Thomas made a bow, and said, " Yes, Sir, I come here to get a little learning, that I may be able to read my Bible, and grow up a good man." " A very proper answer indeed," said Mr. Allen. " The design of charity schools is to give the children of

poor

poor people such a degree of knowledge, as may enable them to learn from the holy scriptures their duty to God and man. For this happy advantage they are indebted to the benevolence of persons in higher stations, and they ought to be very grateful for it; I therefore recommend it to you, Tom Simpkins, as you are become my scholar, to be very thankful to God Almighty, to whose providence you are in the first place to ascribe your good fortune; and I also advise you to pray for blessings on those who founded this school, and on your benefactor Squire Villars in particular, who gave you admittance into it.

"I shall now read you the rules of the school, to which you must exactly conform." Mr. Allen then commanded silence, and read as follows :

Rules to be observed in this School.

I. Every boy is required to be here by seven o'clock in summer, and eight in winter; and must come with his hands and face washed, his hair combed, and all his apparel neat and clean.

II. No boy is allowed to talk, so as to disturb others from studying their lessons.

III. No bad words are to be used by any boy belonging to this school.

IV. No boy is allowed to fight a battle with another, neither is he to be called coward for refusing to fight; for children educated at a charity school are to consider each other as brethren, and shew the utmost kindness, and no ill-will.

V. No toys, or play things, are to be produced in school hours, nor any gaming for money practised between them.

VI. Those who eat their dinners in the school room are to observe the utmost neatness, and neither grease nor slop the floor, forms, desks, or their own clothes.

VII. No ink is to be wantonly spilt, or thrown about; neither must the forms and desks be scrawled on, or cut.

VII. Every book, that is to be read in, must have a paper put over the cover, and be kept from scrawls and dogs' ears.

IX. The books and slates, belonging to each boy, are all to be put by in their proper places before he leaves the school.

X. Every boy must make a bow at coming in and going out of the school, and is advised to behave with humility and respect to persons in superior stations at all times.

Having finished reading these rules, Mr. Allen inquired whether Thomas could read; and, on finding he could not, ordered him to take the lowest place in the school, which was next to Sam Wilkins, a boy of nine years old, who was remarkably little of his age: Thomas took his seat, but determined in his own mind to use all his industry to raise himself higher; for, thought he, if a stranger should come in, he would take me for a great dunce, should he see such a little child above me.

It was some time before it was Thomas's turn to be called out, for there were nineteen boys to read before him: he saw several of them punished for idleness, among the rest Dick Long; others received praises; and Jerry Franks read, wrote, and cyphered, so well, that his master gave him Dr: Watts's hymns, a dozen of which had been left at school by a charitable lady, to be given as rewards to any boys who should be thought deserving of them. Thomas Simpkins was so very good-natured, that he felt sorrow for those who were punished, and joy for those who were praised; so that when he saw the book presented to Jerry Franks he was exceedingly happy; and, hearing

ing that therewere' more inthe master's possession, resolved to try if he could not get one himself in a short time.

While the other boys were reading and spelling, he sat quite still, not offering to play, though little Sam Wilkins tried to make him do so; but he said, " No, Sammy, I will play with you after school, we must be quiet now." At last it was Thomas's turn to go up to the master, who gave him a new spelling book, in which he wrote his name for him, and the date of the year, and day of the month: " Now, my lad," said he, " let us see how long you will be before you get into the New Testament ; as soon as you can read a chapter in that, I will give you such a book as I have given to Jerry Franks ;" then, opening the spelling book, he pointed to the large letters, and told him the names of each.

The boys next came out to say their catechism : here Thomas was at no loss, for his good father had taught it him very perfectly before he died ; and he stood up with the rest of the boys. It so fell out, that the creed and second commandment, and the explanation of the Lord's prayer, fell to Thomas's share ; by repeating of which he gained great credit ; nor did he miss one word in any of the answers, but repeated them distinctly, and loud enough to be heard. It was now twelve o'clock ; and, school being over, the boys went out to play. Thomas wished to get acquainted with Jerry Franks, therefore asked him to play at marbles with him, who readily consented, and allowed him to take Sammy Wilkins into their party, as he had promised to play with him.

C H A P. III.

AS Thomas's father and mother had kept him very much in, lest he should fall among bad boys and learn idleness or wickedness, it seemed strange to him at first to be among such a number, but it was cheerful, and he had excellent spirits, and no objection to an innocent game of play.

Among so many boys there was a great variety of tempers; and some, having better parents than others, were better instructed at home, and consequently were more agreeable in the school; none however were suffered to remain there if notoriously bad.

Jerry Franks was the head boy in the school; he was very forward in his learning, and a great favourite with all the boys on account of his good-nature, and particularly kind to the younger ones.

Whilst they were at play Ralph Jennings came up; and, snatching a handful of marbles from Sammy Wilkins, said to the others, "Are you not ashamed, you two lubbers, to play with a baby? come and have a game with me." Sammy Wilkins, who was just upon the point of winning, and was hurt at being called such a name, coloured exceedingly, and was ready to cry, but kept his tears from falling, because he was resolved he would not behave like a baby. Thomas Simpkins immediately snatched the marbles from Ralph, and gave them, with all that he had of his own, to Sammy; and said to the former, "You are a stranger to me, but I must needs say I think you a very rude boy; what business is it of yours who we play with? besides, how can you be so unkind to Sammy? you were once as little as he yourself, and would have thought it hard

hard if nobody would have played with you?" "Hold your tongue," replied Ralph, "or I will give you a knock of the head." "I mind a knock of the head no more than you do," said Thomas, "and will soon shew you that I do not," and began to pull off his coat. "Stop, Thomas," said Jerry Franks, "you have heard, you know, that it is a rule in the school, that there should be no fighting; and, if your master comes, he will have a bad opinion of you, should he see you quarelling the first day." Ralph now began to fear that Jerry would complain of him, and walked off. Thomas, who was of a lively disposition, and not used to this kind of treatment, knew not how to pocket the affront; but Jerry Franks begged him to consider, that it was very wrong for any one to put themselves in a passion, and particularly so for poor boys, who were placed at charity schools to learn Christian virtues. "If we live long in the world," said he, "and go out to be servants or 'prentices, we must not expect every one to bend their temper to our's; it will then be our duty to study the tempers of others; and the more patience and meekness we have, the happier we shall be; therefore, the sooner we learn to govern our passions the better."

"What you say is very true," replied Thomas, "but must I have no spirit? am I to suffer all kinds of abuse without resentment? I am sure I would not willingly injure or vex any one; but must I stand still and take knocks of the head without defending myself?" "By no means," answered Jerry Franks, "it would be dastardly to do that, but you were stripping to fight before you had received one knock, and in a place where you are forbidden to fight by one whose commands ought to be obeyed; therefore, it would not have been a disgrace to you to have refused. It

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very seldom happens that boys, who are themselves good-natured, have occasion to fight; and I think it a very brutish custom to give black eyes and bloody noses to one another. Poor folks may have opportunities enough of shewing their courage, by bearing different kinds of hardships, as my father says, and we should not add to the sufferings of those who generally have a pretty large share fall to their lot. Besides, when you come to read your Testament, you will find that our Lord Jesus Christ himself met with a great deal of ill treatment, and bore it all with meekness and patience; and you know all Christians should strive to be as much like him as possible." Thomas thought this advice very good, and resolved to observe it. At this instant Ralph Jennings came up a second time, and called him *coward*, on which Thomas found his anger rising again; however he recollect ed himself, and replied with as much calmness as he could, " Call me coward or what you will, Ralph, I shall not break through the rules of the school, though, were it put to the proof, I believe I could soon shew you that I have as much courage as yourself; and you had best not attack me out of school; besides, if you call me coward, the master shall know it." He spoke this with so much spirit, that Ralph, who was a mere bully, sneaked away, fearing that he should meet with more than his match. It was now time to go into the school-room to eat their dinner; and, after they had done so, Thomas begged Jerry Franks to hear him his lesson, which he kindly did. At two o'clock the master returned, and each boy took his place. Thomas sat silent as before, listening to what the other boys read, and sometimes looking over his alphabet, till he was called out, when, to his master's surprise, he remembered every letter, and received

received high commendation, which gave him such pleasure, that he returned home with an heart as light as a feather, and his mother rejoiced to see him.

" Well, Thomas," said she, " how do you like school?" " O, vastly well, mother," replied he, " I should love to go, if it was only to hear others read. I have heard so many chapters to-day, you can't think. One boy read about God Almighty's making the world in six days, and commanding the seventh to be kept holy; another about Moses in the bulrushes; another about Elijah's being taken up into Heaven in a fiery chariot; I heard too of JESUS CHRIST being born and laid in a manger, and about his curing the lame and sick, and making blind people see; and a great deal more than I can tell you; but I want to know the whole history from beginning to end." " Then you must make haste and learn to read it," said his mother. " That I will," replied Thomas. Then, producing his spelling-book, " See," said he, " what has been given me for my own!" Thomas then sat down, and, having been told by his master that the little letters had the same names with the great ones, he looked them over and over, till he knew them likewise.

C H A P. IV.

WHEN Thomas went up stairs to bed, before he began to say his prayers, he considered with himself, as his father had taught him to do, what sins he had committed that day, and was very sorry for having been in a passion with Ralph Jennings; however, he hoped that God would pardon him, as he did not suffer the sun to go down on his wrath, but had listened to the good advice of

of Jerry Franks; and then, kneeling down, earnestly besought the Almighty to forgive his offences, as he forgave those who offended him; imploring the aid of Divine Grace, to preserve him from anger and resentment for the time to come; after this, with his heart glowing with piety to God, and charity and good-will to all mankind, he went to bed and slept in peace.

The next morning his first business, after he had said his prayers, was to study his lesson; and he perfectly recollects all his letters in both the great and small alphabet, which made him wish for the hour of going to school: and, as Dick Long did not come exactly to the time, he set off without him, resolving not to be too late; and indeed he was the first boy in the school-room; but Jerry Franks soon arrived, and they began to talk about the quarrel which Thomas had had the day before; and this good boy expressed his thankfulness to Jerry for the part he had taken, and declared his resolution of making it up: just as he had finished speaking Ralph came in, and Thomas civilly asked him how he did; and held out his hand to shake hands with him, which the other was glad to do, as he found, by inquiry in the neighbourhood, that Thomas was a very different boy from what he at first took him to be.

In a short time afterwards the rest of the boys came, the master entered, and school began.

Thomas gained great credit by knowing all his letters, and began learning to spell; he went on extremely well, and nothing remarkable happened the first month; but then he was tempted to commit a fault, which, had he done it, would have brought him into great disgrace.

It was the middle of August, when the apple and pear trees were loaded with fruit; and in the way to school was a very fine orchard, belonging

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to a man named Andrew Lister : it was impossible to see this fruit without wishing for a taste of it ; but Thomas always checked the desire, because he knew that we are forbidden to covet our neighbour's goods ; gladly would he have purchased a halfpenny-worth now and then, but the owner, being a market gardener, would not sell so small a quantity.

Very near to Thomas lived two charity boys, one named Harry Bird, the other Timothy Cox ; they had each of them parents, who attended more to providing for their bodies than their souls, and thought, when they had earned food for their families, they had done the whole of their duty, leaving it entirely to the schoolmaster to teach them religious principles. Mr. Allen was extremely diligent in this respect, but he could not answer for their conduct when out of his sight ; and those, who had not good advisers and examples at home, were very apt to forget what he said to them.

All persons, who put their children to charity schools, should have a particular care to behave well themselves ; for it is a dreadfully wicked thing for a parent to lead a child astray from the path of goodness, when God Almighty's providence has put them into it. This, I am sorry to say, both Harry Bird and Tim Cox's parents did, though they had the good luck to get their sons into the charity school ; and would often boast before the children how they had taken people in, as they called cheating and telling lies ; so that, though the boys were taught their catechism like other children, they thought, from what their parents said and did, there was no harm in pilfering little things. As Mrs. Simpkins knew what sort of folks Bird and Cox and their wives were, she had desired Thomas not to make acquaintance with their

their sons ; but when they became his schoolfellows he could not be quite so shy of them as he was before, and sometimes they would call in their way to school, but had never happened to meet with him till the day I am now speaking of, because he was, in common, too early ; however, at this time having a scheme in their heads, to throw the blame on him if they were caught, they took care to be in time.

They said nothing to Thomas till he was out of the house, lest his mother should hear ; but, as soon as they were out of doors, mentioned their intention to him, and asked him to join them, saying they might fill their pockets and satchels without being caught, as Andrew Lister and his sons were gone to market ; and that they might soon run to Harry Bird's mother, who had promised to make some apple dumplings for dinner ; and, as it was a half-holiday, it would not signify playing truant for once, for they might easily invent an excuse to deceive their master ; they assured Thomas he should have his share of the apple dumplings, if he would go home and dine with them ; but this good boy could not be persuaded to join in any such thing ; he had the fear of God before his eyes, and told his companions he would not steal so much as a single apple for the world : it was not doing by others as he would wish to be done by. " If every body should take it into their heads," said he, " to help themselves, no one would know what to call his own, and poor neighbour Lister would have nothing left to maintain his family. I remember some texts of scripture, that my poor dear father taught me by heart, which would keep me from stealing and lying as long as I live. Pray let me repeat them to you." But neither Harry Bird nor Timothy Cox would stay to hear them ; they said Tom might do as he pleased, but for their part an apple pudding they would have, let the scriptures say what they would against it ; and

and they threatened hard how they would serve Thomas, if he told of them ; so away they went, leaving him to go to school by himself.

C H A P. V.

WHAT to do poor Thomas did not know; he was very averse to telling tales, and yet he thought concealing the matter was making himself a party in the theft ; so he determined to consult his friend Jerry Franks upon the subject. Very luckily Jerry and he were, as usual, the two first boys at school, and it was a quarter of an hour before any others arrived. Thomas opened his heart, and told the whole affair, which Jerry was very sorry to hear ; but said he thought he ought on no account to conceal it, and he wished Thomas had stopped at Andrew Lister's house as he came along, to tell his wife of it, as the apples would be a great loss ; however, he would by all means advise him to do so as he went back, if he found the robbery had been committed, but not to tell the other boys, as it was possible Harry and Tim might think better of it, and not do as they threatened. Thomas's head was so full of this disagreeable affair, that he could not attend as usual to his lessons, and made several mistakes when spelling to his master, which surprised Mr. Allen a good deal ; who, perceiving that he had great difficulty to keep his tears from falling, asked him what was the matter with him ; Thomas replied, that something vexed him, but he begged his master would give him leave to keep it to himself. " Well, Tom," said Mr. Allen, " I can't think you have any wickedness in your heart, so will not ask you ; but if there is any thing I can do to serve your mother, let me know, and I will do it." Thomas thanked his master, but said his mother was well, and in no want at present ; and then

then sat down, longing for the clock to strike twelve.

Mr. Allen, on calling over his list, had missed Harry Bird and Timothy Cox; and expressed his surprise that they were not come, but fortunately did not ask the other boys if they knew the reason of their absence; so that Thomas was not obliged to tell. At length the school broke up; and, as it was Saturday, they went home at noon; and Thomas begged Jerry Franks would go with him, to see whether Harry and Tim had done the wicked deed; and if they had to accompany him to Mr. Allen's.

In their way home they passed by the cage, and were surprised to see a great crowd round it; but what was the astonishment and grief of Thomas and Jerry Franks, when they found Harry Bird and Tim Cox were confined in it!

It happened, unfortunately for them, that Andrew Lister, having been ill in the morning, did not go himself to market; but, being better soon afterwards, went into his orchard with a neighbour, to shew him some fine pear-mains and golden pippins, of which he hoped to make a great deal of money. He got to the place just as the young thieves had filled their pockets and satchels; they were still on the trees. Lister was greatly provoked, and called out hastily, Get down you little rascals! on hearing which, Harry Bird let fall his satchel, and, attempting to descend quickly, fell from the tree, and bruised himself a good deal; the owner of the fruit seized him, and added to his pain, by giving him a hard knock or two, with a stick he had in his hand; in the mean time Benjamin Godfrey (which was the other man's name) ran to the tree on which Tim Cox was, and catching him by the arm, as he was alighting on the ground, gave him so sudden a twist, that he threw him on his face, and made his nose bleed, saying at the same

same time, What, you young villain, you are not contented with stealing my eggs, but you must have some apples too! but come along, sirrah, I am constable now, and you and your companion shall go to the cage for to day, and in the evening I will take you before the justice. The boys begged and pleaded, but all in vain. Ben Godfrey said it was his duty to take up thieves; so, assisted by his neighbour Andrew Lister, away he took them, and locked them up in the cage, where they sat, exposed to the derision of all the village, without a morsel of food.

Thomas and Jerry were exceedingly shocked indeed, and quite ashamed of wearing the same kind of coat and badge as the wicked boys had on. It was now needless to call at Andrew Lister's; so with sorrowful hearts they returned home to their friend's houses, but not a mouthful of dinner could they eat; and, longing to know how the matter would end, Thomas Simpkins asked his mother's leave to go to the justice's in the evening, which she readily gave, and he called upon Jerry Franks to accompany him. They arrived at the cage just as they boys were taken out by the constable, who, tying their arms behind their backs, fastened a rope to each, and drove them before him; while a crowd of men, women, and children surrounded them, hooting and reproaching them all the way. Not a theft had been committed in the village, but they were suspected of it. These, says one, are the young rogues that robbed my hen roost,—and I dare say they stole my ducks, said another—I make no doubt but they cut my cabbages, says a third.—At length they arrived at the house of the justice, Squire Villars, a very wise and good man. Andrew Lister was called upon to make his accusation.

“ And please your worship, said he, I am a poor working man, and have a wife and seven children to maintain, which, I bless God, I have done very de-

eently, by selling fruit at market. Though the summer has been but bad, my best apple-trees bore very well, so that I thought to make a good deal of money of them, as nobody hereabouts has such; but these young rogues got into my orchard, and have gathered their pockets and bags full; and not only so, but have broke off branches from the trees, which will hurt them for the time to come. Now, please your worship, continued he, it is very hard for a poor man to have his children's bread taken out of their mouths in this manner. What I say, your honour, is very true, for neighbour Godfrey, as well as I, caught them in the fact." Godfrey then declared it was as Andrew Lister said, and that he had reason to think the boys were addicted to theft, and encouraged in it by their parents; and several persons present attested the same. Bird and Cox, and their wives, had followed their sons to the justice's, in order to beg them off; and, on hearing this charge against them, began protesting their own innocence, and pleading for their children, declaring that this was their first offence; adding, that many a boy robbed an orchard without any harm being thought of it: on this the justice commanded silence, and then spoke as follows:

"I know there are many persons in the world, who think it a trifling thing to rob a garden or orchard, and numbers of boys value themselves on their dexterity in doing it. But nothing can be a trifle, which is against the word of God, and the law of the land. Now, whoever reads the bible and testament, will find that we are expressly charged not to defraud our neighbour, and are told that thieves shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven; and scarcely any one is so ignorant, as not to know that there are laws appointed for the punishment of thieves, and magistrates to put the laws in execution. It is, therefore, astonishing that any one will be so wicked,

or

or so foolish as to steal, since they incur the just anger of God, and bring pain and disgrace upon themselves. Whoever takes what belongs to another, without his leave, is a thief; so that robbing an orchard is no such trifte: if he steals from a poor man, he is, as the wise king Solomen observes, *like a sweeping rain, which leaveth no food*; and if he steals from the rich, it is still *defrauding his neighbour*.

" It is the duty of every one to teach his children, from their early infancy, to be true and just in all their dealings; and those who teach them otherwise, as I find the parents of these boys have done, will be called to a severe account for it at the day of judgment, and will be despised by all the good part of the world. Surely they do not consider the danger they expose their children to; and that they are putting them in the direct way to the gallows; for those who will take little things when they are young, will be tempted to take greater as they grow older; for, having no principle of honesty in their hearts, or fear of God before their eyes, they will not be stopped by the fear of human laws, from any theft, which it comes into their wicked hearts to commit.

" It gives me great concern to have occasion to punish two boys, who, from their dress, I perceive, belong to the charity school, and therefore ought to have known better than to steal, whatever their parents may teach them. They cannot plead the want of either good instruction, or good example." Then, turning to his clerk, he desired him to make out their mittimus. The boys fell on their knees, and pleaded for mercy. Their parents entreated most earnestly for them; which moved the heart of Andrew Lister so much, that he begged he might not be bound over to prosecute them. " Well," said the justice, " you are very merciful, I will at your request, and in pity to their youth, dismiss them."

" But think not" said he, addressing himself to

the boys, “ that you are to escape so, if you are ever brought before me again for the like offence, however trifling your theft may be. Never take what belongs to another, for the life of a thief is one of the most dreadful that can be conceived; they are in continual danger of discovery; are afraid to walk about by day, lest they should be apprehended, and if taken up sent to prisons, which are shocking beyond conception, being filled with wicked wretches, guilty of all manner of crimes, and hardened in guilt, to such a degree, that they are like devils, swearing, cursing, and blaspheming from morning till night. Some are loaded with heavy chains, and confined in dark dungeons, from which they are taken at last, and hanged like dogs, or sent into slavery, to work like horses. Go about your business now, but take care to let me see you here no more.” Then, turning to their parents, he said, “ Have you considered what I have been saying? if you have not, consider it for the future, and do not, through your own wickedness, bring your children to a shameful death, and occasion the loss of their immortal souls; make restitution to your neighbour for the loss of his fruit, and correct your boys for the fault they have committed, and be honest for the time to come.” The boys were then set at liberty, and the crowd dispersed to their respective houses.

C H A P. VI.

THIS scene made a striking impression upon Thomas Simpkins and Jerry Franks, and they could neither of them get to rest, till some time after they went to bed: and declared to their friends, that, were they either Tim Cox or Harry Bird, they should never be able to shew their face in the village again. But it was otherwise with these wicked boys.

boys. When they got home, their parents, instead of desiring them to be thankful for the lenity which had been shewn them, and to remember the good advice they had received, began railing at the justice, for being partial to Andrew Lister; and said they saw no such harm in taking a few apples, for that many a squire had done such a thing before; by which means they hardened their boy's, hearts, instead of correcting them.

The next morning Thomas and Jerry, when they met to go to church, talked over the last day's adventure; and Jerry admonished the other to return thanks to God for preserving him from the snare which had been laid for him, and they both earnestly besought God to enable them to resist all temptations to dishonesty and deceit.

Thomas greatly lamented that he could not write or read well himself, but, with his mother's leave, he went home with his friend Jerry after divine service, who searched the bible, and found, by means of the margin, a number of texts which he read to Thomas, and then wrote down for his own use, lest he should at any time be tempted to steal and lie; and he promised to give Thomas a copy of them as soon as he could read writing; and they both resolved, with the grace of God, to be true and just in all their dealings, and to keep their hands from picking and stealing, and their tongues from evil speaking and lying: Jerry also read to Thomas the account of the death of Ananias and Saphira.

As I hope all my readers have better dispositions than Harry Bird and Tim Cox shewed, I will here add the texts which Jerry wrote out, as it is likely many good boys may not be able to write them for themselves, and it is very necessary for all persons to be perfectly acquainted with what the holy scriptures say against the vices of stealing and lying, which many people practise without fear or shame, not

considering the danger they run of losing their own souls. I earnestly entreat all who read this book to learn by heart what follows, and also Dr. Watts's divine song, entitled "The Thief," and that "On Lying," as soon as they shall be able to obtain that instructive and amusing book.

Exodus xx. 15. *Thou shalt not steal.* Prov. xxii. 24. *Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man thou shalt not go.* Eph. iv. 28. *Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.* 1 Pet. iv. 15. *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil-doer, or as a busy-body in other men's matters.* 1 Cor. vi. 10. *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.* Lev. xix. 11. *Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.* Prov. xxiv. 28. *Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.* Zech. viii. 16, 17. *These are the things that ye shall do; speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates; and let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.* Eph. iv. 25. *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.* Ecclus. vii. 12, 13. *Devise not a lie against thy brother; neither do the like to thy friend. Use not to make any manner of lie, for the custom thereof is not good.* Prov. xii. 22. *Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.* Ps. v. 6. *The Lord will abhor both the blood-thirsty and deceitful man.* Prov. xii. 19. *The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.* Prov. xxix. 5—9. *A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet. In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous dash and rejoice. The righteous*

righteous considereth the cause of the poor : but the wicked regardeth not to know it. Scornful men bring a city into a snare : but wise men turn away wrath. If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest. Rev. xxi. 8. All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone : which is the second death. Ecclus. xx. 24, 25, 26. A lie is a foul blot in a man, yet it is continually in the mouth of the untaught. A thief is better than a man that is accustomed to lie : but they both shall have destruction to heritage. The disposition of a liar is dishonourable, and his shame is ever with him. Ps. ci. I will sing of mercy and judgment ; unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way : O when wilt thou come unto me ! I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes : I hate the work of them that turn aside ; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me : I will not know a wicked person. Who so privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off : him that hath an high look, and a proud heart, will not I suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me ; he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house : he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land : that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord. Ps. cxix. 163. I hate and abhor lying : but thy law do I love. Ps. cxx. 3, 4. What shall be given unto thee, or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue ? Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper. Prov. xiii. 22. A poor man is better than a liar.

C H A P. VII.

THE next morning Thomas and Jerry, when they met to go to church, talked over the last night's adventure, and agreed in opinion, that Tim and Harry would never have the assurance to come to school again; but they were mistaken; for on Monday they both attended, having been persuaded by their parents that their school-fellows would laugh at the matter; and that, as they had paid Andrew Lister, their master had no business with them. But they were deceived; for, though many of the boys had faults, there was not one besides themselves who would have robbed a poor man's orchard; and not one of them would play with, or even speak to, those who had.

As soon as Mr. Allen had taken his seat, he called them out before him, and said, "I am really astonished Harry Bird and Tim Cox to see you here, after the crime you have been guilty of. How can either of you put on that coat and badge, which are the marks to distinguish boys educated in the principles of the Christian religion? that divine religion, whose laws you have shamefully broke! You have not only done an injury to Andrew Lister, but to the school you belong to. As it is publicly known that you have been guilty of theft, some persons may think ill of the institution, and withhold their benefactions, so that in effect you may be said to rob the school itself. On this account I cannot keep you here; I therefore expel you, as unworthy of the charity which was intended for good boys." Timothy and Harry immediately went away: their school-fellows were much affected at this sentence, but it was necessary and proper that Mr. Allen should act thus, for the sake of the other boys.

Timothy

Timothy and Harry returned to their parents, who with their usual folly blamed Mr. Allen; and instead of insisting on their boys begging pardon, and promising good behaviour for the future, said they did not value him, nor the charity school either, nor would they live any longer in the village; so in a short time they left it, and went to a place at which they were not known, where they continued their bad practices; and their boys grew so wicked, that at last one turned highwayman, and was hanged; the other committed some crime, for which he was condemned to work in the ballast lighters.

Thomas Simpkins improved daily in his learning; in a week's time he got above Sammy Wilkins, but did not exult over him, though he could not help rejoicing that he was no longer the lowest boy in the school. In three months time he was able to spell words of four syllables, and to read the testament and prayer book; and then his master gave him Watts's divine songs, and put him higher in the school, and began teaching him to write and cypher; and Thomas took great delight in the hymn book, which had been given him as a reward; and learnt to repeat a number of the hymns by heart, and to answer most of the questions in a book concerning the catechism, which was used in the school; and he added some of the hymns to his morning and evening devotions, seldom omitting that which contains praises to God for learning to read.

But it happened, unfortunately for poor Thomas, that his mother was taken so ill, that she could not go out to work; and, having no money beforehand, she did not know what to do for bread. Thomas, though very unwilling to lose his learning, could not bear to leave her long by herself in that condition; so ran to school, and begged his master to excuse his not going till she was better. The master, knowing that he was too fond of his book to

wish to stay away, readily consented ; but still the principal distress remained ; Thomas's mother was sick, and he had no means of getting any thing to do her good, which made him cry sadly at first ; but he soon recollect ed that he had read in many places in the bible, psalms and testament, that *God has promised to hear all his faithful servants, who call upon him in the day of trouble* ; and he was sure God would keep his promise ; he therefore fell on his knees, and besought the Almighty to have compassion on his distress ; and, if it was his good pleasure, to restore his dear mother to health, and to put it into the heart of some good Christian to relieve them.

His prayer was heard ; for God Almighty's providence so ordered it, that an account of this good woman's illness was carried to Mrs. Andrews, a very charitable humane lady in the neighbourhood, who came that afternoon to see her, gave her money for a present supply, and sent her from day to day medicines and nourishing things, till she was quite recovered, and able to work again. The school-master also recommended her to the rector, who made a little collection ; to which all the gentry, who heard what a good woman Mrs. Simpkins was, readily contributed ; and her poor neighbours came and did what they could for her ; and when she got well, she had money enough to pay a quarter's rent, which she had been in great care about : so she and Thomas were convinced, that God can bring good out of evil, and turn misfortunes into blessings.

When Thomas's mother was quite recovered, he went to school again, and used his best diligence to recover his lost time ; though indeed he had not entirely neglected his learning ; for, while he sat by his mother's bed-side, he got his tasks every day, in the same manner as if he had been expected at school ; and his master was so good, as not only to hear him repeat them, but also gave him, as a reward for his industry,

industry, a book called the Christian Scholar; and at the same time recommended him as an example to the rest of the boys, who were in general glad to hear his praises, and resolved to be like him. It is so natural to desire praise and commendation, that one wonders every boy should not endeavour to obtain it; and yet many act as if they were indifferent in respect to what the world think of them, not considering the value of a good character, which often puts people forward in the world, and is of more advantage to them than a large sum of money without it. "*A good name,*" (says the wise king Solomon) "*is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour than silver and gold.*" It is particularly necessary for those who are educated at charity schools, because no person will take them after they come away without a character from the master: and surely no teacher will be induced to speak well of one who does not deserve it. Besides it is to be remembered, that our Lord Jesus Christ himself did not despise the good opinion of the world; for it is said of him, that when but twelve years old he increased in wisdom and stature, and grew in favour with God and man.

C H A P. VIII.

IT would make my story too long, were I to give an account of every remarkable instance of Thomas Simpkins's good behaviour, while he went to the charity school; but there is one particular which I cannot pass over, because many boys are not so scrupulous on the subject as they ought to be, and perhaps some who read this history may be the better for his example. He would not pay away a bad halfpenny, knowing it to be so, on any account, because he thought it was cheating, as it could not be

properly called money ; and besides, he was afraid that at last it might come to some poor wretch who had not another farthing in the world ; and he had rather work a day, or even a week more, than that this should be the case ; for a thing, which happened a little before he went to school, made his very heart ache, and he could never mention it without tears in his eyes. It was this. When he came home from work one evening, his mother sent him to the chandler's shop for a three-penny loaf. At the same time a very miserable looking man came in, and desired to have a quartern loaf and a pound of cheese, for which he laid down a shilling. The man of the shop looked at it, and said it was a bad one : at hearing this the poor creature was ready to sink into the earth, and declared he did not know it to be so ; but the shopkeeper immediately drove a nail through the shilling, and fastened it to the counter, bidding him be gone for a cheat. The poor wretch, who was a soldier that had fought bravely for his country, had not another farthing ; and this shilling had been given him in charity by a stranger ; so he was obliged to go away without the bread and cheese. Thomas followed him, and saw him enter an old barn, where four children met him, crying out with one voice, "Where's the bread and cheese daddy?" The little creatures had had no food all day ; their poor father could not tell them he had none for them, but burst into tears, and threw himself on the ground, endeavouring to stifle his sobs. Thomas, who could not bear the sight of so much distress, ran home, and begged his mother to carry them something to eat. — Mrs. Simpkins, having had but little work that week, was rather short of money ; however, she thought of the widow's mite, and resolved to give all she had to these poor strangers, who were so much worse off than herself ; so she cheerfully took the three-penny loaf, and her stock

stock of cheese, and divided it amongst them. Thomas also fetched a mess of milk, which had been provided for his supper ; this he cheerfully gave to the strangers ; and both he and his mother were contented to go without food themselves ; and even rejoiced that God Almighty had put it in their power to feed the hungry, as they had heard the parson read in the testament, the very Sunday before, that “ our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will look upon such actions as done to himself, and will reward them in heaven ;” and Mrs. Simpkins desired Thomas to think what happiness it would be to hear his blessed Lord say, when he should come in the clouds, with all his holy angels, “ *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.—For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat ; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink !* ” And how dreadful to hear him say, “ *Depart ye wicked, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels !* ”

Thomas not only kept his tongue from lying, and his hands from stealing, but made a conscience of playing fair at all games, and never cheated, or made use of any tricks ; neither could he be prevailed on to play for money ; for he said, a little loss was often distressing to poor folks, and he should be apt to grieve himself at losing, therefore could not enjoy his winnings, lest he should be the cause of grief to others. Besides, he said, it took off all the pleasure of play to make a *trade* of it. He was also very indulgent to the little boys, in teaching them how to spin tops, play with marbles, &c. and always took their part when others teased them. In short, there was not a virtue recommended in the scriptures, but this good boy tried to practise it ; nor a vice forbid, but he tried to avoid it ; by which means he passed his time very happily ; as all people will do, who keep God in all their thoughts, so as to fear

fear doing what he has forbid, and love God, so as to desire to do what he has commanded.

C H A P. IX.

THREE is one thing more, which I cannot forbear mentioning, it was so very praiseworthy. In the same village where Thomas Simpkins lived was a boy named Dick Howe, whose mother was a sad indolent gossiping woman, and his father a drunken reprobate fellow; therefore Dick had little chance of knowing his duty; but he was naturally a quiet good tempered lad, though he had learned to swear, and use dreadfully wicked words. This boy worked for the same farmer as Thomas Simpkins had formerly done, and they had agreed very well together; and many a time had Thomas made Dick cry, by talking to him about his wickedness; but he used to say, he could not help it, for he did not know when he swore, he had such a habit of it. Thomas felt a great deal of pity for this poor boy, but was afraid of being too intimate with him, lest the school-master should have a bad opinion of him. At length it happened that Dick's father and mother both died of the small-pox, and he went to live with an uncle and aunt, who were very sober good people, and they wished very much to get Dick into the charity-school, but there was no vacancy. Thomas Simpkins thought he might now safely keep company with Dick; and hearing what his friends wished about the charity-school, resolved to try if he could not teach him to read, and accordingly set about it: Dick took great pains, and Thomas gained great honour; for he taught him to read very well in the spelling book, broke him of swearing, and using bad words, and persuaded him to go to church every Sunday. He used to say that he thought swearing was a foolish as well as a wicked custom,

custom, for the words swearing people used seemed often to come in without sense or meaning ; and he begged of Dick to consider that it must be a great affront to God Almighty to hear his holy name used in that free manner, especially as he had commanded that it should not be *taken in vain*; the meaning of which command his master had taught him, was that no one should use the name of God in common discourse. He said, whenever he read or repeated any of the Ten Commandments, he could not help thinking of the awful manner in which they were delivered on mount Sinai. He then read to Dick Howe that part of the book of Exodus which describes this affecting event ; and asked him, whether he thought that he should ever have dared to swear if he heard the thunderings and seen the glory of God. He begged of Dick to remember that the same God is present at all times, in all places, though he does not appear to us as he did to the Israelites, and that he has power to strike every presumptuous sinner dead in an instant who dares to break his commandments, and that it cannot be expected he will bless those who willfully do so.

Dick Howe felt the force of this admonition, and promised to try to restrain from swearing. Thomas advised him to pray for divine grace to assist his endeavours, and, in order to refresh his memory, begged him to repeat to himself every morning, when he said his prayers, the third commandment and the following texts of scripture, Lev. xix. 12. *And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God : I am the Lord.* Matt. v. 34. *But I say unto you, swear not at all ; neither by heaven, for it is God's throne ; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool : neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.* Matt. xxiii. 16. *Wo unto you, ye blind guides, which say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing : but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor.* James v. 12. *But above all things,*

things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.
Ecclus. -xxiii. 9. Accustom not thy mouth to swearing; neither use thyself to the naming of the Holy One.
Ecclus. xxvii. 14. The talk of him that sweareth much maketh the hair stand upright: and their brawls make one stop his ears. About half a year after the death of Dick Howe's father, Jerry Franks left school; and Dick, to his great joy, was taken in his stead; and very glad he was that Thomas Simpkins had put him forward, as he was a great boy, and would not have so many years to stay at school as those who were taken in younger.

Thomas Simpkins continued to go to school till he was fourteen years old; and was for the last two years very useful to his master, in teaching the younger boys, and was beloved by every one in the school; so that when the time came for him to go away, they were very sorry indeed; however, as Thomas knew that George Ellis wanted to get his son into the school, he did not desire to stay any longer; and, thanking his master for his kindness and good instruction, took his leave.

Thomas now found himself at a loss for employment, and could not bear to live a burden upon his poor mother; he therefore resolved to do any work that he cold get, rather than be idle.

His wish was to go 'prentice to some trade, in which he might have a chance of rising in the world; but as this could not be done for want of money, nor without leaving his mother, he determined to go to husbandry work, for the present at least; and accordingly engaged himself to the same farmer whom he had served before, who now agreed to give him four shillings a week; and Thomas strove to earn it, for he was very strong; and knew it would be extremely dishonest not to give his best service for the wages he received; and he took great care of the horses

horses he drove; fed them regularly, rubbed them down, and gave them water properly; not only out of pity to the poor beasts, but because he knew they cost his master a great deal of money.

Though Thomas could read and write, and cypher very well, he was not at all above driving a cart, or a plough; for he thought to himself, that a boy had better be without learning than to disdain getting his bread in any honest way that was most suitable. To be sure he would rather have had an employment in which he could exercise his talents; but *pride was not made for man*; and whilst he was waiting for such a place as he wished, he might starve for want, or else distress his poor mother; so he rose early, and pursued his daily task, with a contented cheerful heart, and every evening wrote out something from the scriptures, or other good books, and did a sum or two, to keep his hand in; and read to his mother, or else to goody Todd, a poor blind woman, and Gaffer Jefferies, an old infirm man, who lived in the alms-houses. Poor Mrs. Simpkins was very happy in having such a good son.

C H A P. X.

WHEN Thomas had worked for farmer Hobson about a year, it happened that Mr. Brown, the new rector, wanted a servant. Thomas's mother thought the place would suit him very well, and wished him to go after it; which he was very willing to do, as he had heard the rector was a good man, and would let his servants go to church, and also instruct them in their duty; he therefore begged the farmer to spare him; and, having made himself as clean as he could, waited upon Mr. Brown, who was sitting in the parlour with his lady, and desired he might come in. Mrs. Brown was vastly pleased with his appearance,

appearance, but was afraid he was too young to undertake all their work, as they kept a horse, two cows, four pigs, made butter, and had a little garden to weed and water, besides waiting at table, cleaning shoes, and going of errands; but Thomas thought he could manage all this business by rising early in the morning; the only thing he was fearful of, was waiting at table; but, on Mrs. Brown's promising to instruct him, he declared himself willing to learn. Mr. Brown then asked him if he did not once belong to the charity-school, as he thought he remembered his face among the charity boys; and soon recollecting that he said his catechism the best of any at church the Sunday he catechised the children for Mr. Edwards, the last rector; and that, on inquiry who he was, he had heard an extraordinary good character of him from the school-master; this circumstance settled the business at once; and it was agreed that Thomas should have four pounds a year, and a livery, and go to his place as soon as he could; but he begged Mr. and Mrs. Brown would excuse him till farmer Hobson could get a boy in his stead, because it was a very busy time with him, and he could not well spare a hand. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were not that kind of gentlefolks who think the world only made for them, and so that they are served do not care what becomes of other people; they considered that it would be worse for the farmer to lose one of his hands, than for them to make shift without a footboy; and, as there was a neighbour's son who could milk the cows, and look after the pigs, &c. for a little while, they desired Thomas not to leave the farmer unhandsomely on any account; and he made all the haste he could to his work, not even staying to tell his mother of his good fortune, though he wanted to do so very much; however, she was so desirous of knowing how he succeeded, that she walked to the field,

field, and there had the satisfaction of hearing that he was hired.

In about three days another lad was found to supply Thomas's place at the farmer's; and he called in the evening to acquaint Mr. Brown that he could wait on him the Monday following.

Thomas, from the time he had been able to read his bible and testament, had made it his constant practice to study his duty from it, and particularly desired to do so, as he was going into a new station of life; for this purpose, both before and after church, on Sunday, he employed himself in searching for the texts that related to the duty of a servant, and wrote them down in a little book, which he made for the purpose, that he might read them over often, and remember them. The texts he wrote down were as follows: Ephesians, chap. vi. ver. 5—8. *Servants be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good-will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doth, the same shall be receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.* Col. iii. 22—25. *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God: and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doth wrong, shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.* 1 Tim. vi. 1. *Let as many servants as are under the yoke, count their own masters as worthy of all honour, that the name of God, and his doctrine, be not blasphemed.* Titus ii. 9—11. *Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things, not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity;*

lity ; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things : for the grace of God, that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men.—From these texts he learnt, that serving a master faithfully, for conscience sake, is esteemed by the Lord as service done to himself, and will be rewarded accordingly in the other world. Thomas resolved to follow the scripture rules as strictly as possible, that he might after death be admitted to the joys of heaven ; but knowing that no one, without the grace of God, is able to do his duty, in any instance, he prayed to God to confirm his good resolutions, and give him grace to keep them.

In the evening Thomas called and took leave of his friends, who were sorry to part with him, especially poor goody Todd, and Gaffer Jefferies ; but Dick Howe, who was grown a very good boy, promised to read to them and his mother too, which made Thomas Simpkins very happy ; and on Monday morning his mother walked with him to the rector's, but parted at the gate, lest the family should think she made a baby of him.

As soon as Mr. Brown knew he was come, he called him into the parlour, and said, “ Well, I Thomas, I have heard so many good things of you, that I make no doubt you will behave as you ought to do ; but, as you have never yet been out at service, I will tell you what I expect from you.

“ You will not find me, Thomas, like many masters, indifferent in respect to what becomes of your soul, so that you do the work I hired you for ; on the contrary, I shall endeavour to give you such religious instruction as you stand in need of ; shall allow you time to serve God ; and will treat you kindly and justly in every respect.

“ Now, in return for this, I have a right to require you to serve me with fidelity. Every state and condition of life, Thomas, has its particular duties.

The

The duty of a servant is to be obedient, diligent, sober, just, honest, frugal, orderly in his behaviour, submissive and respectful towards his master and mistress, and kind to his fellow-servants ; he must also be contented in his station, because it is necessary that some should be above others in this world ; and it was the will of the Almighty to place him in a state of servitude.

" I have agreed to pay you wages, Thomas, for which you have agreed to give me your time and labour ; therefore, if you should be idle, and neglect my work, and waste the time which you have in a manner sold to me, it would be all the same as robbing me of my money. You have also put yourself in subjection to me, and your mistress, and are therefore bound to obey all our lawful commands. Many things belonging to me must necessarily come under your care ; and you will have opportunities of wasting my property very much ; but depend on it, if you do so, God will, at the great day of judgment, call you to account for it ; for he will view all your actions when they are hidden from the eyes of the whole world. Remember this, Thomas, and never do any thing, which you would be afraid to do in the presence of God Almighty. The more sober, orderly, and regular you are in your behaviour, the happier you will be ; and if you are kind to your fellow-servants, you will have a claim to kindness from them. I have at present two very good girls ; but you may chance, in a course of years, to fall among servants of a different character, who consider their own interest only, without regard to that of their master and mistress ; I must therefore add, that it is not only your duty to be just and honest yourself, Thomas, but to inform me if you see my property wasted by others. I mention this, because a mistaken notion prevails among servants, that they are on no account to tell of each other, let them see ever so many bad practices. Now this

this is very wrong ; for a person might as well forbear to discover a housebreaker, or a highwayman, as forbear to tell when they see bread and meat given away, or wasted. I do not mean, my lad, that you should be a tell-tale, nor will my ears be open to frivolous complaints ; all I desire is, that you should keep nothing a secret from me which is of consequence for me to know.

" Remember also, that you, as well as people in the higher ranks of life, have a master in heaven whom you are bound to serve and obey. By him we are all intrusted with talents, which we are required to improve to the utmost of our power. The talents God has committed to you, Thomas, are health, strength, and understanding, sufficient to qualify you for, and enable you to discharge, the duties of the station he has placed you in ; these you must diligently improve, by endeavouring, on all occasions, to act by me, and every person with whom you have any dealings, to the best of your knowledge and abilities. You must also endeavour, by all proper means, to increase your knowledge, in order to be more and more useful in the world, as you grow older. If you do this, you may hope to meet your Lord with joy, at his coming to judge the world."

Thomas assured Mr. Brown that he would always be true and just to him ; and neither wrong him, nor see him wronged, without informing him of it ; and that he would never forget he had a soul to be saved. " Then," replied his master, " we shall both be happy, Thomas ; for you may depend upon all the encouragement you can reasonably desire. Go into the kitchen now ; your mistress will be back from market presently, and will tell you what to do."

Thomas then made his bow, and went into the kitchen ; where, seeing no one, as the maids were busy in other parts of the house, he sat down, and thought in his mind on what Mr. Brown had been saying,

saying, which he found quite agreeable to the texts of scripture he had written out, and determined to observe it.

C H A P. XI.

SOON after the maids came down stairs, and spoke so kindly to Thomas, that he was quite pleased; they also praised their master and mistress, and said, if he was not happy in their service it must be his own fault. This was great encouragement to him, and his heart overflowed with gratitude towards God Almighty, whose providence had brought him into so good a family.

Presently after Mrs. Brown came in with her two children, a little master about seven years old, and a young lady about sixteen. As soon as the young gentleman saw Thomas, he called out, "here's the new boy, mamma, here's the new boy!" and, running up to him, said, "are you come to live with us?" Thomas very civilly told him he was. Mrs. Brown then shewed Thomas a little pantry, in which stood a dinner tray, the knife cases, some glasses, the common tea things, &c. of which he was to have the care; and told him she expected always to see every article there, when it was not in use, in the very places they now stood in. She then gave him a fustian jacket and waistcoat, for every day, and a drab-colour livery, turned up with green, for his best, telling him, that she required him to keep his clothes, hands, and face, very clean. She then ordered Dick Bennet, who had milked the cows, and fed the pigs, till Thomas could go to his place, to shew him where they were kept; and when he came in, it was time to get himself ready for dinner; he accordingly dressed himself in his new jacket, and looked very neat indeed; his mistress was so kind as to direct him how

how to lay the cloth, and wait at table, and was quite surprised to see how handy he was the first time ; he then went and got his own dinner with the maids ; after which, little master begged the new boy might go with him to fly his kite, to which Mrs. Brown consented, only desiring they would be back time enough for Thomas to get tea ready, which, with his mistress's directions, he managed very well ; he afterwards milked the cows, and watered the garden ; and in the evening sat down quite comfortable with the maids, who rejoiced to hear that he could read, and entertain them while they worked. Thomas laid his cloth for supper, without making any mistakes ; and, as soon as he and the rest of the servants had supped, Mr. Brown rang a bell to collect his family together, that they might end the day with religious worship ; and after prayers every one retired to bed in peace, and took their rest, trusting that God Almighty would raise them up in safety.

In the morning Thomas rose by five o'clock, fed the pigs, cleaned his master's shoes and boots, put his blacking and brushes tidily away, and fed and watered the horse, by which time the maids were up, who desired him to fetch in wood and water for them ; after which he milked the cow : by this time Mr. and Mrs. Brown were up, who were greatly pleased to see how forward he was with his work. " This will do, Thomas," said his mistress ; " only forecast your business, and you will get through it with ease—many servants double their work for want of method."

The bell was now rung for morning prayers ; after which Thomas and the maids got breakfast for the parlour, and then sat down to their own : the maids then instructed him in cleaning knives, rubbing tables, cleaning plate, &c. and when the time came to lay his cloth, he remembered every thing, so that Mr. and Mrs. Brown praised him very much. In the after-

afternoon, Thomas and his young master (who was brought up, as well as Miss Fanny his sister, to be very good-natured to servants) went into the garden; where, while Thomas worked, the young gentleman diverted himself with a little piece of ground, which he called his own garden.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown kept two maids, Betty the cook, and Kitty, who was house-maid and dairy-maid; the former had been brought up in the family from a child, and was a good creature; the latter was taken, about two years before, out of a charity-school. Kitty's father and mother lived in the parish Mr. Brown came from, which was a good way off; and she was very sorry to leave them; but as she was in so good a place they desired her not to come away on any account.

It was always a rule with Mr. and Mrs. Brown to tell their servants, as soon as they came into their service, what they required of them; and I have already informed you what this worthy gentleman said to Thomas. Mrs. Brown talked much to the same purpose to Kitty; but, among other things, desired her to dress in a plain, neat manner, for she did not approve of servants flaunting themselves out, as is the custom now a-days. She also desired that she would not romp with the men and boys, as it made young women appear very bold; and begged her to avoid putting herself in a passion, as meekness is a great virtue in every woman, and particularly requisite in those who are placed in a state of service; she likewise told her, that she expected her to behave well to her daughter, who was now old enough to assist in doing little things in the family. "I mention this, Kitty," said Mrs. Brown, "because I know it is a very common thing in families, when a daughter is grown up, and her mother wishes her to learn how to manage a house, for the maids to set their faces against her, and treat her with insolence, be-

cause they don't chuse, as they say, to have more mistresses than one. Now, if I ever hear an expression of this kind, Kitty," continued she, " I shall consider it as an insult offered to me ; for surely I have a right to employ my daughter as I think proper. I know that Fanny is inclined to be a good mistress ; and I should think, Kitty, that the more friends a servant has in a family the better. My daughter may in time settle in the world, and be able to serve you, when I and your master are dead ; and so may Charles too ; therefore it is your interest to behave well to the children : I do not mean that you should cant and flatter them ; neither shall I suffer them to tyrannize over you ; Fanny, indeed, knows better than to do so ; but Charles is young, and may sometimes forget himself. I expect you to bear with his little harmless tricks ; but, if he is rude, at any time, inform me of it civilly, and I will correct him properly ; but if you take upon you to do it yourself, I shall always suppose you to be in fault."

Kitty had as excellent a heart as Thomas, and had been brought up in the same pious way by her parents. She made the scriptures the rule of her actions, and consequently was sober, diligent, just, honest, frugal, orderly and submissive.

Mr. Brown gave Thomas a bible and prayer-book, which he was very glad of, because he did not like to take those which had been his father's, as they would be wanted for Dick Howe to read to his mother. He also gave him the Gardener's Calendar, which Thomas often read, for he took great delight in a garden, and contrived to have every thing early in season. The good gentleman had also provided several other books for his kitchen, because he wished his servants to have pleasure as well as himself. In these Thomas read to the maids whenever he had time, which was very pleasing to all parties.

C H A P. XII.

IN this manner Thomas lived contented and happy for four years; gave great satisfaction to his master and mistress, and was much beloved by his fellow-servants; he had frequent opportunities of seeing his mother; though she made it a point never to go to Mr. Brown's house, unless Mrs. Brown was so good as to ask her; because, neither she or her son wished to appear encroaching; and they met with the greater kindness on account of their modesty; for the good parson and his lady gave her many a dinner, and bestowed other favours upon her, which they would not have done if she had been forward and intrusive.

At the end of four years Betty the cook went away to be married, and Susan Clarke, who had lived in a nobleman's family, was hired in her room. She appeared to be very good-natured, and behaved with the greatest civility to her master and mistress's faces, but she was very deceitful, as you will soon find.

Instead of taking pleasure in hearing the bible and other good books of an evening, she had not been there a week before she brought out a history, which Thomas began reading, but found it full of nonsense about lords, and ladies, and squires, falling in love with one another, and running away from their parents, and shooting themselves, and such sort of stuff, as neither he or Kitty at all liked, for it would not teach them any thing of their duty either to God or man.

Susan next produced a parcel of ballads, some of which, such as Chevy Chase, the Cobler who lived in a Stall, the Children in the Wood, Black-eyed

Susan, and a few others, Kitty thought pretty reading, and wished to know the tunes; though she did not believe, she said, that the Children in the Wood could be all true, as Mr. Brown had often told her there were no such things as spirits and apparitions. Many of the ballads were full of nothing but indecency, which Thomas was ashamed to read, and Kitty to hear; so he took the whole parcel and flung them into the fire, saying that his master would not suffer such things in his house. Susan was very angry, and went up stairs to bed in a buff. After she was gone, Kitty and Thomas talked the matter over: and Thomas said he thought, as servants had but little time for reading, it was right to make the best use of it, and not to waste any time in reading nonsense. "Besides," said he, "Kitty, what reading can be so pleasing as the Bible? I like Robinson Crusoe, and the other book of travels my master lent us, very well, but they are not half so entertaining as the stories in the bible and testament; besides, how do we know the first are true? and we are sure the latter are so, because they were written by holy men, who were taught by God himself what to write; and how much prettier Watts's hymns and the psalms at the end of the prayer-book are, than those foolish ballads." "Very true, Thomas," said Kitty, "though I love a merry song very well, as singing makes work go off lightly, I cannot bear such songs as these, and think it very foolish to spend money for such trash."

The next evening Susan, being come into temper, brought forth a book, which pretended to interpret dreams, and to tell whether people would have good or bad luck, and what would happen to them by the moles they had; the marks in the palms of their hands; the settling of coffee-grounds and tea-dust, at the bottom of cups, and so on.

The

The title of this book was enough to keep Thomas from reading it; for he said the writer of it must be a very wicked wretch, to pretend to know what none but God Almighty could know; and he thought it very wrong to wish to pry into future things, when there was so much said against it in the scriptures; for his part, he would not have his fortune told for the world; and Kitty protested she would not listen to fortune-tellers, if she was even sure they could tell true; for she was certain God would not make future things known to such wicked persons, as they usually were; and it would be wrong for Christians to listen to their falsehoods, or have any concerns with them; besides, she had heard many stories of their robbing houses, and therefore would never let them enter her master's. Susan laughed at them for a couple of fools, and said, they were the dullest fellow-servants she ever lived with in her life.

The next night Susan said she must just step out; and desired they would say, if her mistress asked for her, that she was only gone up stairs, and would be down again in a minute. "I shall tell no stories about it," said Kitty, "for I would not deceive my good mistress on any account;" and Thomas said the same. "Well," replied Susan, "do as you will; if you like to be kept prisoners, I don't; nor shall any parson and his wife in England chain me by the leg;" and away she went. Kitty and Thomas were very sorry to see Susan act in this manner, and said, it was really hard a servant could not ask a mistress's leave; it was not doing as she would be done by. Mrs. Brown, as it happened, did not miss Susan.

When Sunday came, Kitty and Thomas were quite surprized to see the cook, when they were going to church, in a silk gown, curls at her ears, her hair half way down her back, a fine gauze cap, with lappets and streamers, a flounced petticoat, and long

train to her gown. The good girl, as well as Thomas, was quite ashamed to walk with her ; and both declared they could not go into the house of God with one who looked fit to act a play with strollers in a barn. Susan said, they need not frighten themselves, she was not going with them, she was not hired to go to church ; and though madam had given her a long lecture about that and other things, when she came to her place, she should stay from church whenever she thought proper : if she did her work, that was enough for her. So away she went to Lord Townly's, where an old fellow-servant of her's lived as kitchen maid.

It happened that Mr. Brown did duty at another church that afternoon ; and Mrs. Brown's little boy being ill, she and Miss Fanny staid at home to attend him, by which means Susan was not found out. Mis. Brown indeed saw, from the chamber-window, how foolishly she had dressed herself, and determined to tell her of it the next day. When evening came, Susan pretended to have the head-ach, and went to bed because she did not like to hear a sermon read.

It was very uncomfortable to Kitty and Thomas to have a companion who had such a dislike to every thing that was good ; and they consulted together whether to tell their master and mistress of her or not ; and at last agreed to let it alone a little while, in hopes she would grow better.

The next morning Mrs. Brown said, " Susan, I was quite astonished to see your dress yesterday, and must insist upon your not making such an appearance again, if you think of continuing in my house." Susan, who was a very great cant, pretended to be very sorry, and said, she supposed gentlefolks liked to see their servants dressed ; for her part, where she lived last, she was never thought smart enough ; " Well," said Mrs. Brown, " I am of a different opinion,

opinion, and you cannot dress too plain for me, as I told you when you first came, so pray let me see no more of your gewgaws. Common wages will not afford such things, and they are quite out of character." Mrs. Brown then left her, and Susan immediately burst into a laugh, and said, "So I am too fine for madam! is she afraid I shall be taken for the mistress? Well, I'll soon go where I may dress as I please, though I will humour the old woman till I can better myself." Kitty heard this, and thought it would be right to tell her mistress of it; but never having had occasion to complain of a fellow servant before, she did not know how to go about it, and besides, she thought Susan could not be in earnest; she therefore resolved to bring the matter up in the evening, when Thomas would be by: accordingly, when they were all seated round the table, Kitty asked Susan who was her milliner? on which, the other desired to know if she wanted to employ her? "Indeed I do not," replied Kitty, "for I think a neat muslin cap, with a quilled border, which I can make myself, quite good enough for me. Where is the use of dressing like a lady, when every body knows one is but a poor servant? And what pleasure can there be in sweeping the dirty ground with a long train, or having the gown drawn up like a window curtain, to sit upon and crumple all up of a heap? Besides, what work people must have with their lappets and flap-dabs, if they make them all themselves! or what money must they cost, if they get others to do them!"

" You are a silly girl," said Susan, " and know nothing of the world; one must do as other people do. Who besides the parson and his wife would hire you, do you think, even in your Sunday clothes? but what would they say to you in your working dress, with your camlet gown, your stuff quilted petticoat, woisted stockings, and leather shoes!"

" Never fear," said Thomas, " you would sooner

get a place, Kitty, than any of the dressed-up maidams, who, as I know by Lord Townly's servants, have often a fine gown, with scarce a shoe to their foot, and white, or rather brown stockings, full of holes, with fringes of rags at the bottom of their petticoats. I have often heard the gentry praise Kitty's dress, when I have been waiting at tea, and make game of servants who try to look like ladies."

"I am glad to hear some gentlefolks have a good opinion of me;" said Kitty, "though I hope I shall not soon be in want of a place, for I know when I am well off, and that's more than many do." "Meaning me for one I suppose," said Susan, "because I said I would go away as soon as I could better myself;—don't go and blab that; one says many things in a joke, that one does not mean." "I don't like such jokes, for my part," says Kitty, "and if I hear any more shall certainly tell, think what you will of me." As Susan had not a farthing of money in the world, she was afraid of being out of place, so pretended to be sorry for what she said in the morning, and went on tolerably well for a month or two, but generally staid in her own room of an evening, to read foolish books, or make fine caps, or stepped out to Lord Townly's, and sometimes went to bed, rather than hear Thomas read such books as Mr. Brown supplied the servants with.

C H A P. XIII.

IT was now the depth of winter, and the evenings were very long; Susan, therefore, several times proposed that they should play at cards; but Thomas and Kitty would never consent, because it was a great waste of time, and their master and mistress had forbid card playing; however, Susan was resolute to have them.

Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, with their children, went at Christmas to see their friends, who lived a good way off, and proposed to stay a fortnight. So, the first evening after they were gone, she got some of Lord Townly's under-servants to come to see her; and they sat down to whist. She then brought out what provisions the pantry afforded, and asked Thomas if he could not pick the lock of the cellar door, and help them to a bottle of wine; he was quite shocked to be asked to do such a thing; on which Lord Townly's servants laughed, and boasted how the butler and cook cheated their lord to treat them and their visitors. Thomas did not mind their laughing, and said, "honesty was the best policy." When Lord Townly's servants found there was nothing more to be got, they railed at Mr. Brown's housekeeping, and went away; and desired that Susan would come to them, where she should have better fare. She accordingly went, and sometimes actually returned home drunk, and then lay late a bed in the morning. One night, if it had not been for Kitty's carefulness, who always looked to see that every spark of fire and candle was out, the house would have been burnt down, by Susan setting a candle close to her bed, and falling asleep before she put it out.

Mrs. Brown was a very frugal, notable lady, and looked so carefully into her family affairs, that a servant could not be wasteful without being immediately discovered; and, as Susan wished to stay for her own ends, she had pretended to be very frugal and saving, while her mistress continued at home; but now she was absent, being under no restraint, she made sad waste and destruction of bread, cheese, butter, and meat; and got a poor woman who lived in the village to come and do her work, for which she paid her with victuals and drink.

This shocked Kitty extremely, because she thought it was a sin; and she told her such things were never done before in that family, and that her mistress would be very angry when she found them out, which she certainly would soon do. "Who cares," replied Susan, "what she finds out? there are more places than one, I warrant: I am not 'prentice here; I have served her betters, and may do it again any day of the year." "You may have lived with grander folks, to be sure," replied Kitty, "but a better woman, or a better mistress, is not to be found; and if no body was worse off than to be 'prentice to her, they would have no cause to complain of their lot." Susan then declared she could not bear the formal ways of the house, and was resolved she would not get up of a morning, whatever the rest might do; and she thought Kitty and Thomas were two fools, in complying with all their master's and mistress's whims, as well as for submitting to take orders from Miss Fanny: — Was not one mistress enough in a family? she thought so, and should let her know as much. Kitty declared her resolution to continue to behave herself respectfully to the young lady, who she said was so good-natured, that those who treated her rudely must have very bad hearts.

Thomas and Kitty were quite unhappy to hear such things, and see such doings; and could not answer it to their conscience to conceal it; they therefore determined to inform their master and mistress of them; and it was agreed that Thomas should write a letter to Mr. Brown, which he did as follows:

Honoured Sir,

I MAKE bold to trouble you with a few lines, because Kitty and I cannot bear to see a good master and mistress wronged. There are sad goings on, indeed, sir; Susan makes away with viands and drink, and

and we cannot help it; and Lord Townly's servants have turned her head to all manner of riot and wickedness, and would have made us as bad as she if we would have let them. But both Kitty and I will be true and faithful, and no one shall make us do the thing that is unjust, so you need not fear us; but I don't know but that the house may be burnt down before you come home; so, good sir, pray don't stay much longer. Kitty and I can justify what I now write to Susan's face, or we would scorn to tell tales.

The black sow has pigged, and the dun cow calved; Kitty and I take great care of them; and as we know madam would do so, if she was at home, Kitty sends the skimmed milk, now we have so much, to goody Long, whose children are almost starving, because her husband is sick and can't work.

We pray God to preserve you, sir, and our good mistress, Miss Fanny, and Master Charles, and will remain till death,

Your true and faithful servants,

THOMAS SIMPKINS,
CATHERINE SPARKS.

C H A P. XIV.

THOMAS's letter hastened Mr. and Mrs. Brown's return, which being unexpected by Susan, they found her and Lord Townly's servants in the parlour playing at cards, and Kitty and Thomas at their book and work in the kitchen. You may be sure Mrs. Cook and her visitors were routed; but the latter were so impudent they only laughed, for they knew their lord and lady would rather encourage them in such a thing, than turn them away; and

Susan was quite sorry, saying, it was very hard a poor servant could not invite a friend to come to see her without having a piece of work ; and as for being in the parlour, there was no staying in the kitchen with such cross fellow-servants as she had. Kitty and Thomas were now called, who told their story to Susan's face : she could not deny the charge, and was turned away, as she deserved to be, at an hour's warning ; but, before she left the house, Mrs. Brown, in the presence of Thomas and Kitty, addressed her as follows :

" It gives me great concern, Susan, I assure you, to turn you away without a character ; but justice to others, as well as myself, requires that I should do so ; for the happiness and safety of families depend much on their having regular trusty servants. Had I not been deceived by the person you last lived with, I should not have hired you ; for, had I known your faults, I could never have slept a night in peace, while you were in the house ; therefore, in conscience, I cannot recommend you to another mistress.

" I fear, when your wages are spent, you will suffer much distress ; but you must consider it as the just punishment of your sin, in imposing upon a master and mistress, who, I can safely say, have endeavoured to do their duty by you. I heartily hope you will become sensible of your faults, that God will forgive you, and that his providence will put you into some honest way of getting a livelihood." Kind as this discourse was, Susan was not affected with it, but pertly said to Mrs. Brown, that she hoped she should never want a character from her, and flung out of the house.

When she was gone, Mr. and Mrs. Brown commended Thomas and Kitty very much for their fidelity, and said, it should not go unrewarded ; on which Thomas generously replied, that the pleasure of doing his duty was a sufficient reward to him, and

he should not wish for any other than the good opinion of a master and mistress, whom he was bound in gratitude to honour and serve to the day of his death ; and Kitty also declared, that it would hurt her to receive any recompense, as the world might say she joined with Thomas, in informing against Susan, for her own ends, which, she was sure, was not the case.

Mrs. Brown was excessively happy in hearing her servants express such sentiments, and said she should, however, consider them among her sincerest friends, and value them accordingly.

In the evening Thomas and Kitty sat down quite comfortably, and the former proposed to read a book, which had been given to him by Mr. Brown, soon after he came to his place, entitled *a present for servants*; which he had made it a rule to read once a year, ever since he had it. Kitty highly approved of his doing so; for though she pretty well remembered the contents of the book, she thought good advice could not be too often repeated. They finished this book in two evenings, and then read another called, *Serious advice and warning to servants*; both of which clearly point out the duties of servants, and shew what God requires of them.*

As Thomas and Kitty were now by themselves, and knew not what kind of fellow-servant they might have next, they thought it best to take the opportunity of reading some other good books; which, while Susan was there, they could not well read together.

When Susan left Mr. Brown's house, she went to Lord Townly's, the servants having promised to take her in; here she continued a few days; and then,

* Sold at Mr. Rivington's in St. Paul's Church-yard.
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having quarrelled with her companions, she was desired to go about her business; on which she applied to the woman to whom she had given victuals for doing her work; who readily furnished her with a lodging till her money was gone, and then informed her she must stay no longer.

The distresses which Mrs. Brown foretold, now came upon Susan, for she had not a friend in that part of the world to apply to, and she resolved to sell some of her fine clothes, in order to raise money enough to carry her up to London. When she arrived there, she asked all her acquaintance to get her a place; but, without a character, there was no chance of one. She entered her name at a register office, but no one would hire her; at last she was reduced to downright beggary, and would have been glad of the hardest crust she had thrown into the hog-tub at Mr. Brown's.

C H A P. XV.

DICK HOWE went on supplying Thomas's place, by reading to Mrs. Simpkins, and the two poor old folks, Goody Todd and Gaffer Jefferies, till a cousin of his, who was a carpenter, sent for him that he might teach him his trade. After he had left school about half a year, he wrote Thomas the following letter :

Dear Thomas,

I HAVE had it in my mind a good while to write a few lines to you; but could not well find time without neglecting my work, for I am but a slow hand as yet, and therefore wish to work as many hours in a day as I can, that I may earn the bread I eat.

My

My cousin and his wife are very good to me; and we go to church twice every Sunday: but some of the men are very wicked indeed, and lead me a weary life, because I will not go to the alehouse; and all day long they swear, and talk in a very profane manner. But, thank God, Thomas, I now know better than to do so; and hope I shall never forget what you were so kind as to teach me.

If you see my uncle and aunt, pray give my duty to them. God bless you! I pray you to give my service to your mother and Kitty, also to Goody Todd and Gaffer Jefferies,

I am

Your loving friend,

RICHARD HOWE.

To this letter Thomas some time after returned the following answer: this was about the time Susan Clarke went away.

Dear Dick,

I W A S very glad to receive a letter from you; and should have answered it before, but did not know how to send it; for I thought it was not so well for either you or I to spend money in postage, which might be wanted for other uses. Harry Jones is coming your way, and he has offered to take this for me.

I am very happy in my place; and the more so, since I passed an evening in Lord Townly's kitchen. I should not have gone, but my master gave me leave, because, he said, he was sure I would not let them spoil me. O Dick! you cannot think how I was shocked! There are a great many servants, but no religion amongst them; and every one seems to think

think of nothing but how to be wasteful and extravagant: and I could find, by the footman's talk, that my Lord and Lady themselves make game of every thing that is serious, spend their money without doing any good with it, and pass their whole time in diversion, without caring for their own souls, much less for those of their poor servants: and, as for Sunday, so far from keeping it holy, they even play at cards on it.

To be sure, servants cannot go to church, or learn their duty in such places; but I think every-one should, before he hires himself, inquire what sort of goings on there are; and not, for the sake of a few pounds a year wages, make his life uncomfortable, and run the hazard of losing his immortal soul, and of being shut out from the joys of heaven.

Besides, 'tis my thought that Lord Townly's fine footman will not save as much as I do; for I find they game and drink; and, when they are at London, go to taverns, and other places, where they spend a power of money.

And when they are sick, what are they to do? for such lords and ladies don't trouble their heads about poor servants. One of the housemaids, who had the rheumatism, was sent to the workhouse the other day: and I heard the groom say, that a coachman, who broke his leg by the horses slipping down on the ice in the frosty weather, owing to his young lord's making him drive fast, was sent to an hospital, and no more care taken about him.

How different is the treatment I meet with! Sick or well, my master and mistress are like parents to me, and I love them as such; nor would I wrong them of a farthing for all the world. I will serve them as long as they live, if it pleases God, before the grandest lord and lady in the land: and so I told Lord Townly's footman, when he said it was pity such a smart lad as I should live with a country parson.

parson. We had a cook, Susan Clarke, who got amongst them, and turned the house topsy-turvy: but she is gone away without a character; and I don't think she can get a place in a hurry. I could tell you a deal more about Lord Townly's servants, but I have not time.

I am glad you are happy with your cousin; and hope you will continue to be sober. You are quite right in trying to earn what you can; for it was very good of your cousin to take you, as he might have had another 'prentice with money. Your uncle and aunt are well, and desire their love to you. My mother and Kitty send their service; and

I am

Your loving friend,

THOMAS SIMPKINS.

C H A P. XVI.

FOR some time Kitty and Thomas continued without a companion, for Susan had reported that Mrs. Brown starved her servants, and kept two favourites, with whom it was impossible for any person to live comfortably. Some cooks, who were coming away from their places, were foolish enough to believe this, and would not offer; so the work fell very hard upon Thomas and Kitty, but they did not care how much they did so that they could live in peace; neither did they make themselves uneasy about the report Susan had raised of them, because they knew they had done no more than their duty, and that time would bring the truth to light.

At

At last Betty Blowers was hired : she was an honest trusty creature, but extremely passionate, and frequently broke things through her impatience, which was very expensive to her, as it was a rule in Mr. Brown's family for the servants to pay for what they broke : Not that Mrs. Brown was so rigid as to insist on it, when she was convinced it was really an accident ; but she would take no excuses about cats and dogs, and things coming to pieces in the hand ; because, she said, if they were set by carefully, they would not be in the way of cats and dogs ; and it was impossible that china and glass should of themselves, without some kind of violence, come to pieces in the hand ; and carelessness was a great fault, for in its consequences it was as bad to a mistress as robbery, because it was taking money out of her pocket for things that would not have been wanted, perhaps even during her life.

I have often been surprised at seeing servants, who really were otherwise good ones, quite thoughtless in this particular ; and, instead of being concerned at the breaking of crockery-ware, regard it as a thing of course, though it was entirely owing to themselves. How common is it to see a pile of earthen plates and dishes with the small ones at the bottom, the large heavy ones at the top ; glasses at the edge of a table, or dresser, where people are obliged to pass ; and other things placed in so dangerous a manner, that the wonder is, when they are not broke ; and yet, if they are cracked or thrown down, a servant is all astonishment, and cries out, " who would have thought it ? I am sure I did not go to do it :" and if a mistress finds fault, will answer pertly, that " she did not break it for the purpose."

Now all these things are very wrong, and neither Thomas or Kitty would have been guilty of them for the world ; they so accustomed themselves to do as they

they would be done by, that they took as much care as if it was for themselves. I should not gain belief from many servants, were I to tell how long the knife cloths, dusters, brushes, and every thing they used in their work, lasted, for they would have been ashamed to ask for new ones, unless they could carry the old ones to their mistress fairly worn out; and though Kitty used a great many pans in her dairy, she very seldom had the misfortune to break one. Mrs. Brown took care to reward them accordingly, for they certainly saved her a great deal of money; and she often said it was much more agreeable to make little presents to her servants, than to have occasion to be angry with them, or make them lay out their money.

Betty Blowers wished to be as lucky (for so she called it), as the rest, for she could not well afford the expense of buying so many things, and resolved to follow the good example which Kitty and Thomas set, for she was much ashamed of herself. But still she continued very passionate, and would bounce and fly if the least thing went wrong, which was the destruction of many a plate and dish; and she was also apt to take every word spoken in joke, as an affront, which vexed Thomas and Kitty a good deal; however, as she was perfectly sober and honest, they determined to put up with her humours, as nobody is without faults, and the scriptures teach us to bear with one another's infirmities; besides, they could not think of being the cause of turning her out of a good place if they could possibly help it.

Mrs. Brown soon discovered Betty's temper, and very mildly reproved her for it; Miss Fanny often talked kindly to her; and Mr. Brown at last took her in hand. He told her that he was very sorry to hear that a young woman, who seemed to be in most things well disposed, gave way to a fault which

must

must be very tormenting to herself, and distressing to those she lived with. He then, in a very affecting manner, set before her the example of our blessed Saviour; and shewed with what admirable meekness he bore the cruelest insults. He repeated to her the various texts of scripture which recommended this virtue, and assured her, that a woman without *meekness* is a monster, for to be of a *meek and quiet spirit* is properly a part of the female character, and it is not possible for one who is continually giving way to *anger*, to be happy even in this world. He added that, in a servant, a passionate temper is a dreadful thing, as it makes great confusion in families; nay, he said, there was no knowing what mischief might be the consequence of giving way to it; "but," said he, "Betty, as example may strike your mind more than precept, I will relate to you an incident which fell within my own knowledge."

"A friend of mine had a cook who was, like you, a very good servant, and exactly of your temper. It happened one day, that the footman had been warming some beer for a poor old man who frequently came to dinner there, and, being in a joking humour, he blacked her face with the copper pot, as he passed her; on this she fell into a furious rage, and snatching up a knife flung it at him with all her force. The footman (luckily for him) escaped, but the poor old man who was not so active, standing in the way, the fatal instrument stuck into his leg, and divided a large blood vessel called an artery, which occasioned his death two days afterwards. No sooner had the foolish girl flung the knife, than she repented of her rashness: think then, Betty, what must be her feelings when she saw the blood streaming from the leg of the poor inoffensive helpless old man! — conceive to yourself what must be the agonies of her mind, when she heard his dying groans!"

groans! when she beheld the grief of his afflicted wife with whom he had lived happily many years, and might have lived several more, had not this cruel stroke divided them. Almost frantic with grief and remorse, and ready to break her heart, she wept over the corps; but her tears could not restore the dead to life: her sorrow could not recompence the disconsolate widow. No sooner was it known that her hand had occasioned the death of a man, than she was seized and confined as a murderer, and took her trial as such; but, as it was clearly proved that she bore no malice against the deceased, she was brought in guilty of *manslaughter* only; but never enjoyed any happiness afterwards. "Now," said Mr. Brown, "who can tell, Betty, but that such an accident as this may happen through your indiscretion? Let me beg of you therefore to be more on your guard; and when you find anger rising in your mind, check it in the beginning; and consider whether it is worth your while to ruffle your own temper, and disturb the peace of your fellow-servants about trifles; and, above all, pray to God to give you *grace* to govern your temper, for your own *reason* I fear is too weak to do it." Betty shuddered with horror as her good master related this dreadful story; and when he had ended his discourse, thanked him for his good advice, and promised to follow it; she then returned into the kitchen, where she found her fellow-servants, who instead of calling out, as many would have done, "How do you like your lecture?" and such sort of taunting expressions, spoke kindly to her, which encouraged her to relieve her mind, by telling them how sorry she was for her past conduct, and how desirous to amend it; "but," said she, "I am afraid it will be a long while before I can break myself of a habit, which has taken root in my nature, for it was my misfortune to be encouraged to be passionate

from

from my very childhood, as both my father and mother prided themselves in being hot, saying, that passionate people were the best tempers, and that there was no going through the world without a good spirit; but I must own," added Betty, "that my spirit has been a very tormenting one to me; and till I came here, I had always the ill-luck to live among fellow-servants who tried to make me worse, by laughing at me, and doing every thing which they thought would tease and provoke me." Kitty replied, that she would never do any thing of that kind, for she pitied Betty with all her heart, but wondered how people could be so absurd as to value themselves upon being passionate. Thomas answered, that he supposed they meant to draw comparisons between themselves, and those of a *fuller obstinate disposition, who bear malice and hatred in their heart from day to day*; if so, it must be owned, said he, they are in the right, but no one can seriously think that a *passionate temper* is better than a *meek one*; and, as for a *good spirit*, I think, added he, they are the happiest who have one that they can manage. Betty said, she was certain they were, and would try to govern her's; and wished she could read, that she might look for the texts that her good master had repeated to her. Thomas said, if they related to *meekness*, he had got them written down in a book which he kept by him, on purpose to put him in mind of his duty. This treasure of divine instruction Thomas immediately fetched, and read the following extracts from the holy scriptures: Ps. xxv. 9. *The meek will be guide in judgment: and the meek will be teach his way.* Ps. xxxvii. 11. *The meek shall inherit the earth: and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.* Ps. cxlvii. 6. *The Lord lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.* Ps. cxlix. 4. *For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*

salvation. Prov. iii. 34. Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. Isa. lvii. 15. For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place; with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isa. lxvi. 2. For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. Matt. v. 5. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matt. xi. 29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Eph. iv. 2. With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love. Col. iii. 12, 13. Put on therefore (as the elect of God, holy and beloved) bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Titus iii. 2. To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

Betty thanked Thomas, and said, she should be obliged to him if he would read them every night, till she had got them by heart, which he readily did; he also taught her to repeat some of the collects out of the book of common prayer, which suited her case; and likewise began teaching her to read: and it was wonderful to see the happy change there was in her; after she could read the testament, and other good books; she now found that it was the duty of every Christian to be meek and good-natured, and by degrees became a very agreeable fellow-servant, and was extremely grateful to Kitty and Thomas for their kindness to her, which she had an opportunity of shewing by nursing

Thomas

Thomas with great tenderness when he had a bad fever, and by doing Kitty's work while she went into the country to see her mother; so they were rewarded by advantages which they would not have had if they had taken delight in working her up till she hated them.

Many a temper, naturally good, is spoiled by teasing people; who, for the sake of fun, say things which they do not think, only to put others in a passion, that they may appear ridiculous; and bad tempers are made a great deal worse by this means; whereas, it is the duty of every Christian, let their station in life be what it will, to try to make those they live amongst better, not to increase their faults, and to avoid saying any thing that gives pain, unless it is necessary for the good of others.

When Betty had lived with Mr. Brown about two years, her mother died; and, as her father had young children, she was obliged to go to keep his house. She was sorry to leave a family where she had been so kindly treated, but her mistress promised to be always a friend to her, and afterwards did her many good offices. A young woman, named Rachel Smithers, was hired in the room of Betty, who proved an excellent servant, and a most agreeable companion to Kitty and Thomas; for she had seen a deal of the world, and preferred living in such a family as Mr. Brown's, from a love of regularity and a desire of being in a service where she could have leisure and opportunity to serve God.

As Rachel had lived in London, her fellow-servants were very curious to know what sort of services were to be found in that great town, for they had heard different reports; some praising it as the only place to get forward in, others describing it as unfit for any sober orderly servant to go to.

" Why,"

"Why," says Rachel, "there is a great deal to be said on both sides; as the wages in London are much higher, there are certainly greater opportunities of getting money than in places in the country; but I have had enough of it, and will never go thither again if I can help it."

"I will tell you my history, if you have a mind to hear it:" "By all means," said Kitty and Thomas. Rachel therefore began, as you will read in the following chapter.

C H A P. XVII.

"I Lost my father" said Rachel Smithers, "when I was a little child, but my mother was very handy with her needle, and made shift to maintain herself and me. She had the good luck to get me into a charity-school, where I learnt to read my Bible; and my mother took great pains to make me serve God, and do unto all men as I would they should do unto me.

"When I grew a great girl, as she could not get needle-work enough to employ herself and me too, she thought it best that I should go to service; and I was hired by a farmer's wife, who lived very near to my mother, where she could watch over me with her own eye.

"Before I went out, my good mother told me to consider what I engaged myself to do, and never to forget that it was my duty to submit myself to all my betters, and to be true and just in all my dealings; she therefore hoped I would not be pert to my master and mistress; that I would be strictly honest, and not waste any thing I had the care of; and that whatever faults I might, through heedlessness, be guilty of, I would always speak the truth, and not strive to hide them by telling lies. She likewise

desired me to be meek and gentle in my temper, and study to live in peace and quietness with my fellow-servants as far as I could, without joining in any bad practices ; to help them whenever they stood in need of assistance, and be kind to them in sickness. She begged me to be very diligent in my business, and to earn the wages which I was to receive : she also desired me to be extremely modest in my behaviour, and not to romp and hoyden with the men ; and neither to listen to, or join in, profane or indecent conversation. She enjoined me to keep at home, and not, like many giddy girls, take a delight in gadding about ; and she also desired me to keep from telling any thing out of the family. She said it was not possible for a master and mistress to keep their affairs entirely from the knowledge of their servants, but it was very treacherous for a servant to reveal what those they lived with wished to keep private ; and a word or two spoken without thought might chance to do great injury. Above all, my dear mother entreated me to love and serve God ; to say my prayers constantly, and to go to church every Sunday if I could.

" To the farmer's then I went, where I had plenty of work, and plenty of scolding ; for, notwithstanding all my mother had said, I was careless, and my mistress neat ; and she was resolved to make me do things well. She was quite right, to be sure, but I did not then think so ; and could not help complaining to my mother, who insisted on my staying in my place, which I did, as long as she lived ; but, losing her when I was about nineteen, I resolved to go up to London. With the addition of her clothes I had a very good stock, and she had also saved about five pounds ; so that I thought I had plenty of money to last me till I could get into a service, where I should soon become rich.

rich. I therefore wrote a few lines to a young woman, whom I knew, that lived in London, and she procured me a lodging; to which, in spite of the persuasions of all my friends, I went. It was in a little dark court, up two pair of stairs, and yet I was to pay two shillings a week for it. I thought that Jenny Hudson had used me ill in providing such a place for me, but learnt that house-rent was so dear, a better lodging could not be had for the money. I who had been used to the fresh country air, and neat white walls, found a great difference in being stived up in such a nasty hole, where the wainscot and ceiling were all black with smoke, and where I was almost devoured with bugs; but it could not be helped. Jenny tried to get me a place, but all in vain: every thing was very dear; and my money melted away by degrees, till I had none left; and what to do I did not know: so Jenny lent me a few shillings, and I paid one at a register-office, to a person who undertakes to help servants to places, and masters and mistresses to servants. Here I attended every day for a fortnight; for though I saw plenty of people, there was always something or another against my being hired; but the chief objection was, that I could have only a written character.

"O Kitty, you cannot think what I suffered during that fortnight; often did I wish myself back again with the farmer's wife, for, having no money, I was obliged to pawn my clothes."

"Pawn your clothes!" says Kitty, "what is that?"

"Why," replied Rachel, "you take a gown, or any thing you please, and carry it to a man, called a pawnbroker, who lends you about a quarter as much money as the thing is worth, and keeps it in his hands till you can return the money; for the use of which you pay him interest; and if you fail

to do so, and neglect to carry back the money you first borrowed, at a certain time, you lose the thing you pawned, and never have it again."

" Bless me!" said Thomas, " it is a dreadful thing indeed to be obliged to pawn one's clothes!"

" It is so " said Rachel, " yet I have heard say, that pawnbrokers shops are in some respects very useful to poor people, but I hope I shall never be driven to one again, for you cannot think how ashamed I felt when I went in; because there are a great many bold wicked girls who frequent those shops, and I was afraid of being taken for one of them; and besides, I knew it was my own fault, that I was reduced to such beggarly shifts,

" At last I hired myself to be a maid of all work, to a person who let lodgings; and went to my place the next evening, hoping to mend my condition, but alas! I was mistaken. Every part of the house excepting a back parlour, (as they called it), two garrets, and a nasty dark back kitchen, were let to different people, and I had to clean every room, and wait on all the lodgers. My mistress was not over neat to be sure, but yet I had a deal of work in running up stairs and going of errands;—one called me one way, and one another, so that at night my poor legs ached till I was ready to die; and I was forced to go with holes in my stockings, and ragged gowns, because I had not a minute's time to mend my clothes; and as to church, I never entered one. Yet here was I obliged to stay till I could get a better place: at last Mrs. Randall, a lady who lodged in our first floor, had some money left her; and being now able to keep a servant, and have a little house, she agreed to take me: so I gave my mistress warning, and soon after lived in a more airy part of the town with Mrs. Randall, who was very kind to me, and I lived comfortably above a year; but then to my sorrow she died.

" I

" I had in this place seven pounds a year ; and yet I assure you I could not save so much as at the farmer's out of four pounds ; it cost me such a deal for dressing smart, and drinking tea ; and when I was out of place, that little soon grew less ; however, before it was quite gone, I hired myself as cook in a family, where they kept two maids and a footman. In this house there was a perpetual racketting ; card playing without end, and turning night into day ; never could we servants get to bed till one, two, or three in the morning, so we were forced to lie the later. But though my master and mistress lived so genteelly, they were not rich ; he had a place in the treasury, where all the money that is paid to the king for taxes is kept, which brought him in three hundred pounds a year ; but that was not enough for such *rory tory* doings. So they tried to win money at cards : sometimes they had good luck, and sometimes bad ; if the former, it was all very well ; but if the latter, which was often the case, we were sure to have fine pinching and squeezing in the kitchen, for new clothes and wax candles must be had let who would go without a dinner ; and I do assure you, that often and often we servants did not know what it was to have a good meal in a week ; so that scarcely any but me would stay above a month ; but I was so afraid of being out of place, that I made shift to rub on a year and a half ; and by that time my master, what with his losses at cards and other extravagancies, was obliged to quit housekeeping, and I was again on my own hands.

" I had now a great mind to go back into the country, but was ashamed, because I had made such boasts of what great things I should do when I got to London ; so I tried for another place, and got to be laundry-maid in a merchant's family, where seven servants were kept ; four maids, a coachman

and footman, and a boy to run of errands. My master and mistress were very good-natured people; I could have been glad to have served them till now; but they had one fault, which was leaving their servants too much to themselves, for they were rich, and did not value money; and it was their luck to have such, while I was there, as no honest girl could live with any comfort among. Their whole study all day was to impose upon their master and mistress, and indulge their own idleness; and a thousand out-of-the-way tricks they played; as for the poor errand boy, he led a weary life, for every one thought they had a right to order him about; so they made him do half their work, and used him as if he was a dog; many a time has he cried and took on to me, and would have run away without knowing where to go, for he had not a friend in the world, but that I persuaded him to try a little longer, in hopes that my master and mistress would see how he was treated, and now and then I comforted him with a dish of tea. I had a great mind to tell of my fellow-servants; but they talked so much before me against informers (as they called people who would not conceal all they saw and heard) that, like a foolish girl as I was, I was afraid to do my duty, though my conscience told me I was in the wrong, and made me quite unhappy. For a long time I was at a loss to think what could become of all the things that went out of the house—bread, butter, cheese, &c. as I did not see them given away; but by chance I discovered it; as I will tell you to-morrow night, for the bell will ring for prayers in a minute."

C H A P. XVIII.

THE next evening Rachel continued her history as follows: " I had usually bought my tea and sugar at a shop where Mrs. Randall dealt, for the grocer had always served me well; and, though my custom was not of much value, I did not like to change; but it happened one day that I was quite out of tea, and the boy was not in the way; so, as I had not time to go to the grocer's, I stept to a chandler's shop, where I had heard my fellow-servants say they always dealt. The woman who kept it was very curious to know where I came from, and fished out that I lived laundry-maid at Mr. Lloyd's; on this she would take no money of me, but said, " If I would bring her what soap, starch, and blue, I could crib every week, she would keep me in tea and sugar, and I should be welcome to stay at her house whenever I was out of place."

" This proposal made my very blood run cold; and I answered with horror, that I was not one of that sort of people who cheat their masters and mistresses; and away I went, without my tea and sugar, resolving never to enter the shop again. I could now account for the great quantities of provisions which I was sure must go out of the house, though the servants were so shy of me, that they would not let me into their secrets, because, whenever they proposed any thing bad, I would not agree to it; and at last they all joined in a scheme to do my business, as they called it; so one invented one tale of me, and one another, till my mistress began to think I was a deceitful girl, though she could not say but that I got the linen up very nicely. It made me quite unhappy to lie under

such suspicions ; and at last I resolved to tell what I knew ; which I accordingly did ; but the other servants denied it ; and as my mistress, from their tales, had a bad opinion of me, she did not know who to believe, therefore resolved to turn us all away ; and a dreadful life I led for a whole month, as you may well suppose. So you see the bad consequences of keeping silence when one is witness to other people's dishonesty. For my part, I made a resolution, which I will keep to as long as I live, never to conceal such things for the future. Why should one stand in awe of what wicked folks may say, while there is a God above, who will protect those who speak the truth and act justly ? Had I done at first as my conscience told me I ought to do, I should have saved myself many an uneasy hour, and should not have been ranked with a set of creatures whose ways my soul abhorred.

" Before I left the place I begged my mistress to hear all I had to say, and told her every thing that I should before have told her, and also entreated that she would not turn away poor Jack, the errand-boy, as he would starve, and she might get many a boy before she would get a better. My mistress seemed inclined to believe me, but blamed me very much for keeping to myself what I had done, as well she might ; she however promised to give me the best character she could, and told me she would take care of Jack, one way or another.

" I had not been a week out of place before I heard that Mrs. Elderton wanted a nursery-maid. Though I dressed much more than I do now, I was afraid I was hardly smart enough for this place, as the family lived very genteelly ; but was told that Mrs. Elderton did not like fine nursery-maids, many of whom are to be seen in London with stiff long waisted stays, in which they cannot stoop to lead

lead a child about properly, and fine muslin aprons and handkerchiefs, which I fear the poor little dears get many a flap for rumpling. I waited on Mrs. Elderton, and was hired; upon condition that I would in every particular do as I was directed, and not set up my judgment against my master and mistress's, even when I was out of their sight. This I readily promised; for I thought to myself, that parents have a right to lay down rules for the management of their children; that such people as Mr. and Mrs. Elderton, who study for the best methods, must know better than such a poor ignorant girl as I could pretend to do; that it was my duty to obey them; and that it would be less care to me to follow directions, than to have to think myself what was best to be done."

"Did this lady take you without a character?" said Kitty. "No," replied Rachel, "Mrs. Lloyd told her the whole story about her parting with all her servants; and on my assuring Mrs. Elderton that I had no acquaintance with the others she ventured to take me, but not without expressing some suspicion of my having been concerned in their schemes; which mortified me not a little, but I resolved to bear the mortification with patience, as I certainly brought it upon myself, and I trusted that I should in time, by good behaviour, remove them."

"I hope," said Thomas, "that you met with good fellow-servants in that place?"

"I cannot say much for their goodness," answered Rachel; "they imposed upon their master and mistress sadly, and played much such tricks as Mr. Lloyd's servants; but I determined not to connive at them, therefore told my mistress of their doings, who by watching them soon found them out, and turned them away; after which they had the luck to have very good ones, and we were all happy together for some time: the cook staid as

long as I did ; but some servants were married away, and others went to live with their friends, or were ill ; so that we had many changes, and of course some disagreeable people. I shall never forget one thing that happened, I am sure, for I was frightened almost out of my wits." At this instant Mr. Brown rang the bell, which put an end to Rachel's story for the present ; the next evening she renewed her tale, as you will read in the following chapter.

C H A P. XIX.

" **W**E had a house-maid," continued Rachel, " who was a fine dressy lass ; and, having a pretty face, she had taken it into her head that she should make her fortune by it ; so she was for ever contriving how to shew herself ; and never made a bed or swept a room, but she kept running backwards and forwards to the windows, which looked into the street ; and of an evening used to stand at the street-door, and talk to any man who would stop and speak to her. Cook, as she afterwards told me, used to say to her a great deal about it, but to no purpose ; at last it happened that my master and mistress went from home, and the men-servants went with them. I kept up in the nursery with the children, and did not go down stairs the whole evening. Cook, having nothing to do, told Jenny she was sleepy, and would go to bed, and Jenny promised to follow her directly ; but instead of doing so, she let in a young man, who called himself a gentleman, and had for some time pretended to be her sweetheart : as soon as he had gained admittance, and found that there was nobody else in the way, he seized upon Jenny, crammed a handkerchief into her mouth, and tied her legs and hands ; he then opened the street door, and let in another

another villain. Having some things to mend, which were going into the wash for the children, I sat up later than usual, which Jenny I suppose did not suspect, and I thought I heard the fore door open, and a struggling in the passage; on this I shrew up the window, and fortunately for me, saw two watchmen just under it, to whom I mentioned my suspicions: three men who were passing came up at the instant, and with the watchman entered the house, (for the thieves had not fastened the door.) When they came in they found Jenny as I described; one villain packing up the plate, and the other standing by poor Cook's bedside, with a knife in his hand, swearing he would cut her throat if she made the least noise. They were both secured, and afterwards hanged. So you see the danger giddy girls expose a family to by staring out at windows and standing at street-doors."

"Well," said Kitty, "you put me in mind of a thing that I remember: I know a house that was robbed by a girl's standing at a back-door. She was servant to Squire Villars's steward; a poor giddy girl that thought of nothing but sweethearts, and was continually out at this back-door, chattering to one or another. All the idle young fellows in the village pretended to court her, and she gave her company to them in turn. Her master's cellar suffered for this, as her sweethearts always desired a draught of beer, which she could not refuse, though she knew it was wrong. At last a gang of gypsies took up their abode in a barn hard by; and one night, when the girl's master and mistress were gone from home, and nobody was in the house but herself, one of them came to the back-door, and offered to tell her fortune; and having told her a number of fine things that were (as she said) to happen to her, begged some meat and beer: she went to fetch it; in the mean time a man belong-

ing to the gang slipped in and hid himself in the house. Not suspecting such a thing, the girl went to rest at her usual time: but what was her surprise in the morning, to find the house stripped and all her own clothes gone! She ran about the village like one distracted, and went to the barn to see if the fortune-tellers could point out the thief; when, to her grief, she found they had decamped in the night, and it was the general opinion that they had committed the robbery."

" Well," said Thomas, " I think it is very foolish in girls to stand out either at street or back-doors. What man worth having will go to such places to look for a wife? I am sure I should be for one that kept the house; if servant maids wish to be married, they should be discreet, and get a good name for being trusty servants, and then they will be sought for. But pray, what became of fine Mrs. Jenny?"

" Why," replied Rachel, she lost her place and her character too, as you may suppose, and then took to walking the streets of nights, as many poor wicked creatures do. I am sure my heart has ached many and many a time to see young women, who might have been happy in service, if they had not given their minds to vanity, suffering such distress and ill-treatment, as you, who live in the country, have no notion of. If you are out of an evening in London, you may see hundreds of them, some dressed like ladies, with painted cheeks, pretending to be gay and happy, while their poor hearts are, perhaps, ready to break, on account of the lives they lead, and the insults they are forced to bear. I have heard my master, Mr. Elderton, ay, that they are frequently beat and abused worse than dogs, and sometimes taken up by the watchmen, and put into Bridewell, where they beat hemp; and sometimes they are sent to other prisons

sons for debt, where they live upon bread and water. Many learn to drink drams, in order to drown care, and kill themselves that way. They usually live in dirt and wretchedness, up little courts and allies; those who have any shame hide themselves all day; and many sit shivering with cold and hunger, wishing for a bit of bread, which they would be glad to earn in the most laborious manner, but cannot get employment for want of characters; whilst the more wicked and abandoned run about in bedgowns, without caps, talking in such a way as puts modest people out of countenance. The sight of such wretches ought to be a warning to all young girls who are in low stations, not to be fond of finery, or of giving their company to idle men, who flatter only to delude them." The clock now struck eight, and Thomas went to lay his cloth.

C H A P. XX.

WHEN Thomas was gone, "Dear me," said Kitty, "how shocking it is to hear of such things as you have been telling of, Rachel! I cannot get them out of my head. I am sure, if I was to live in London, I should be afraid to stir out of doors, and should think every man who wanted to be my sweetheart was a house-breaker."

"O!" replied Rachel, "house-breakers are not the only people to be afraid of; there is equal danger of girls being deluded by men-servants, and even by gentlemen; they should therefore be on their guard, and resolve not to listen to the nonsense which such deceitful persons talk to them, and should be contented with such plain, decent apparel as suits their condition, and not wish for fine things; but it is the hope of being married so

as to be made ladies of them, that leads girls into the folly of loving fine cloaths, and makes them spend what they ought to endeavour to lay by, For my part I have seen many girls dress out with this view, and never knew but one succeed, her name was Polly Firmin, she was a very handsome girl, and lived in a family where there was a young gentleman, one of her master's sons, who by her arts she contrived to make desperately in love with her, and he took her to Scotland and married her unknown to his parents. But what was the consequence ? She was not happy ; for she was obliged for sometime to live in a retired lodging in the country, and as her husband had nothing but what he depended on his father for, he could not keep her in that grand way she expected ; and when his friends discovered his imprudence they were exceedingly angry, and his father never forgave him to his dying day, but cut him off with a small portion in his will ; the rest of the family looked coolly upon him, and would never own his wife for a relation, and she was not a fit companion for a gentleman of his learning ; so at last he grew tired of her, and they lived a wretched life together, and she found to her sorrow that she had much better have been married to an honest working man, to whom she would have made a good wife, as she was very notable."

" I have often thought," said Kitty, " that it is best for young women to marry to those of their own degree ; for my part I should feel very awkward if I was obliged to dress like a lady, and sit down in a grand room to receive fine folks, and all that."

" You would indeed Kitty," replied Rachel, " for I, who have seen the world, know, that grand people make great game of those who try to ape them, and well they may, for it is very foolish to be sure, and many a girl gets ruined by doing so. They

They may put on fashionable things it is true, but they will not look genteel in them, for real ladies have a sort of manner of carrying themselves which servant girls cannot copy, and they look a hundred times better when dressed plain and neat. But there is no persuading many to think so, and they go on decking themselves out beyond what there wages will afford, and then fall a prey to any man who will give them fine things, and at last come to be poor miserable wretches, such as I before told you walk the streets by hundreds in London every night."

" Many girls are deluded in the country too," said Kitty, " but it is not so much a desire of finery, as a love of romping, that leads them astray."

" This happens still oftener in London where there are a number of men in large families," said Rachel. " A girl who is naturally of a lively temper gives way to giddy mirth, which encourages the footman or shopman to romp with her. At first this appears very harmless, but the silly girl by allowing it begins to think less of the modesty that belongs to her sex, and when the men perceive this, they talk improper language to her, and from that proceed to liberties, which end in her ruin and shame."

" It is very odd to me," said Kitty, " that girls can laugh, as I have seen some do, when men talk rudely to them and pull them about. I am sure nothing makes me more angry, for it is a sign that they have a bad opinion of one's modesty; and I am sure those girls who answer them again in their own way, and allow their freedoms, do not consider what their catechism says about *keeping the body in chastity*; for the meaning of this is, that we should be modest in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

" Very

" Very true," replied Rachel, " but I fear Kitty there are many women in the world, who do not think about *chastity* at all ; and so that they do not quite lose the chance of getting places, care not what people say or think of them. I have known girls who have been so bold faced, as not to mind having a child before they had a husband, and who have even rejoiced when the poor innocent died ; nay, some who have been wicked enough to take things to prevent its ever coming into the world, which is certainly murder."

" Bless me !" said Kitty, " how unnatural vice makes women. I am sure I should never be able to hold up my head again, if I were to be a mother before I was a wife. Think Rachel, what a deal the scriptures say about this crime—and what *good* people think of it. How shocking it is to be the scorn of the world, and to have a troubled conscience—and how dreadful to bring a poor little innocent babe into the world to be despised and set at nought all its life, perhaps for its mother's sin ; and how much more to be the murderer of one's own child ! If girls would read the scriptures and other good books, instead of the nonsense they often waste time upon, these things would not happen so often as they do, answered Rachel. But many look upon having a *sweetheart*, as the greatest happiness in life, and, as soon as they fancy themselves *in love*, or a man in love with them, instead of considering what modesty and prudence require, they get all the love-songs and fortune-books they can meet with, and fill their heads with romantic notions, which give men, who court them with a view to betray, every advantage against them."

" Well," said Kitty, " I never had a sweetheart yet unless our Thomas may be called one, who is very kind to me to be sure, but he never talks in any unhandsome way, or takes any freedom with me ;

me; if he did I should tell my mistress directly; and if he was even to propose marrying me, I should think of that again and again, and ask my mistress's advice, and write to my parents before I consented." " You would do very right," said Rachel, " and I commend you greatly for your modesty; depend on it, the more discrete you are, as a maiden, the happier you will be when a wife. Modesty, as my good master Mr. Elderton once said to me, is a jewel which a woman should never part with for any price, and she should wear it at all times; for none are so high that they need disdain it, or so low as to be debarred from it, and it adorns the homely attire of a country lass more than gold and diamonds do the gorgious attire of a wanton." " Who then Kitty, wou'd throw aside an ornament, which makes them equal, in one respect at least, with the highest of their sex, and certainly recommends them to the favour of God."

When Thomas had done waiting at supper, he sat himself down to eat his own with the maids, and asked " if Rachel had gone on with her history;" she said " no, she had only been talking with Kitty, concerning some of the dangers young women were exposed to in London." " I have heard," said Thomas, " that it is a sad place for a sober young man to go to."

" That it is," answered Rachel, " unless he lives in a very regular family. I would not advise any lad to go to London at a venture, for there are a thousand snares and traps for those who do. Neither is it safe for a new servant, who is a stranger in London, to make acquaintance with others in the neighbourhood, or even with those who come with messages to his master or mistress. There are a number of idle young fellows of footmen, who have no work to do, but just to wait at table, carry messages, and ride behind coaches, these spend most

most of their time in dressing, drinking, and gambling, and take a pride and a pleasure in corrupting young men who come out of the country: silly lads, that are more fearful of being laughed at for awkwardness and bashfulness than of offending God, imitate these coxcombs, till they themselves become as bad."

" Well but," said Thomas, " it is their own fault; for if a servant will but consider what his duty requires of him, resolve to do it, and pray to God to give him grace to keep his resolution, the devil himself cannot prevail against him."

" True, Thomas," answered Rachel, " but the misfortune is, that few footmen think much about God or the devil: they go up to London with a desire to get a great deal of money, do but little work, and take their pleasure. With these notions they enter a state of life full of temptations, and no wonder they fall a prey to them as they do. Religion, Thomas, is the only thing that can preserve any person from loving the pomps and vanities of this world; and therefore a servant, whether man or woman, should keep to what that teaches. It is wrong to say, *they have no time to serve God*, for there are few places where they may not find time to read, and go to church too, if they have a sincere desire to do so; and if there are no family prayers, servants may still pray to God by themselves, morning and evening at least; and besides that, may offer up a short prayer while they are doing their business, which they naturally will do, if they use themselves to thinking that they are always in the sight of God, and that he knows their most secret thoughts. I am sure I can say, from my own knowledge, that such sort of prayers are of great service, for I had a vast deal to do at Mr. Elderton's; having always a young child in arms, another just running alone, and four in all to

to work for, yet I never missed saying in the course of the day, “*O Lord, have mercy upon me, and enable me by thy grace to do thy holy will; make me true and just in all my dealings;*” and such kind of petitions, according as occasion required; which kept up the remembrance of God, and made me act as in his holy presence.”

“ Ay,” said Thomas, “ there is nothing like religion, Rachel, to make people act right, and render them happy too; I am sure I have found the comfort of a religious education, and am bound to bless and pray for those by whose bounty I was taught to read.”

“ And so am I,” said Kitty: “ but pray go on with your story, Rachel; how came you to leave Mrs. Elderton?” “ Why,” said Rachel, “ my master had some great place given him in the East Indies, and went abroad, which I could not get up my heart to do; so was obliged to leave a master and mistress whom I loved and honoured sincerely, and children who were as dear to me as if they had been my own. I had lived at Mr. Elderton’s six years, and brought up four children from the month; so when I left my place my master made me a present of twenty pounds, and desired his brother, if I was in distress at any time, to give me assistance. Thus you see I got money, and friends too, by my honesty and courage.”

“ Was not you ready to break your heart when you parted from the children?” said Kitty.

“ Indeed I was,” replied Rachel: “ especially when I put them into the hands of a black woman: but it was a great comfort to me to think, that I had not made them afraid of such people, as is a very common practice with many nursery maids; “ *the black man shall have you,*” they cry, if a child is a little unruly; or, “ *I’ll put you into the dark hole.*” This I never did; for I thought to myself,

the

the poor blacks are harmless enough, and meet with hard treatment sufficient already, as I have heard say; there is no need therefore to set children against them, who would in that case most likely grow up enemies to them; and, should they in the course of their lives have any blacks under them, may use them ill on that account, or else be under a thousand vain fears. And as for *dark-holes*, how cruel it is to terrify children with them, because we are as safe in the dark as in the light, for God Almighty's providence is over us at all times, and in all places!"

"I long to know, Rachel, what you did for a place now," said Thomas: "Why," answered Rachel, "I had seen so much of London, that I resolved to leave it; and, coming down to stay a little with my cousin Larkin, who lives in the next village, I heard of Mr. Brown's place, and gladly hired myself, and here I hope to live happily many years."

"I think," said Kitty, "you had tolerable good luck in London; so that you had no need to set yourself so much against it: and I don't find but there are as good masters and mistresses there as in the country."

"Very true, Kitty," answered Rachel, "there are doubtless numbers of good masters and mistresses in London, and many others who *would* be good ones, if they were better served; but, though I am a servant myself, I must own, that servants are got to a sad pass, and in general behave so ill, that ladies and gentlemen do not know whom to trust; and when they have been deceived, by one after another, are apt to think all are alike; it is therefore very unfortunate for a good servant to come after such, and uncomfortable to live *among* them: but, in the first case, time will most likely mend their condition, if they have but patience to stay

stay and keep to their duty ; and, in the latter, they certainly ought to expose whatever wicked ways they see, which are likely to injure their masters and mistresses, who in all probability will reward and love them for their honesty, and endeavour to get them more suitable companions. But if it so happens that good servants *must* live, and be ranked with worthless ones, they should comfort themselves with the thought that *God is above all, and seeth not as man seeth, for the LORD looketh on the HEART.*

“ A man or woman who wishes for a service in London, should, if possible, inquire the character of masters and mistresses before they hire themselves. I do not mean that they should listen to the tittle-tattle of turned-off servants, char-women, or chandler’s shop-keepers, for such are seldom to be depended on, and will often for their own ends give places a bad name ; but inquiry should be made whether the gentleman or lady are good livers, whether they go to church, and keep early hours of a night ; for if so, a servant has a chance of being comfortable and safe with them : but if their thoughts be entirely given to card-playing and diversion, there is little room to expect they will attend to the happiness of their domestics ; on the contrary, there is no knowing what harm they may do to poor folks, whose hard lot it is to serve them, by setting a bad example, and keeping them from the public service of God.”

Kitty and Thomas expressed great satisfaction at being themselves so happily situated, and resolved to form no wishes for London services ; in which resolution Rachel confirmed them, by declaring that she never felt herself so happy as at present.

C H A P. XXI.

MR. and Mrs. Brown had a great objection to their servants gossiping; yet they were not so strict as to insist upon their having no acquaintance at all; for, though they would not allow tea-drinking and junketing, they were very willing to let them go out, or have a friend come to see them at proper times, which was as much as either Kitty, Rachel, or Thomas, desired. These good servants thought it very unreasonable to waste their time, to fill their master's kitchen with their visitors, and regale them at his expense; neither could they afford to treat them themselves. Indeed, they did not give at all into the custom of tea-drinking; and by their savings in this, and the article of dress, both the maids, though they had no more than six pounds a year wages, laid by a good deal of money, which was a great comfort to them in case of misfortunes; for, as Kitty often said—Who could tell what might happen? She hoped her master and mistress would keep her as long as they lived, but life was uncertain; besides, she might be ill herself, and obliged to leave her place; and her poor father and mother could not afford to keep her, and she should be ashamed to go into the workhouse, because every body must know that she might have saved money if she would; and, if sickness did not happen, she might settle in the world, and then a little money would be very acceptable; or, if she had no chance of that, she should at least have something to help her in old age.

It is very strange that servants in general should have no thoughts of this kind, and yet it is plain they have not, or they would not, as they do, spend all their money upon their backs.

Among

Among the young women with whom Kitty was acquainted was Molly Banks. She was a very sober, good girl, but had a mother that was more indulgent than mothers should be, whose daughters are obliged to go out into the world; and this made servitude very hard to Molly. Mrs. Downes, the grocer's wife, with whom she first lived, was a good kind of woman, but very neat and particular. Molly was thoughtless; and though by no means of an idle disposition, yet very negligent, and rather flatteringly, which often made her mistress angry with her. This Molly, who had never been accustomed to be chid, thought very unkind, and she used to make heavy complaints of it whenever she saw her friend Kitty. This good girl guessed how the matter was; and, instead of railing against Mrs. Downes, she tried to reconcile Molly to her place, and persuaded her to try to give more satisfaction. "Depend on it, Molly," she would say, "there is no good to be had by frequent changes, and few mistresses are so bad but that they will be pleased with a servant who tries to please them. I am afraid the fault is on your side, for indeed you don't dress as if you were tidy; how can you go with your hair so loose, your gown sleeves unsewed, and the heel pieces off your shoes? I can tell you, that, were I to do so, my mistress would chide me. When I first went out into the world, I thought every thing a hardship, as you do; for my mistress would not pass over a single fault, nor suffer me to do any thing wrong, without making me do it over and over again till I did it right. This at last made me careful; and now I go on as comfortably as can be, and never have an angry word; and I think my mistress was the best friend I had in the world, in taking the trouble of correcting my faults, and hope to serve her till I settle in the world."

This

This encouraged Molly Banks to try to get into her mistress's ways also; which she at last did, and made a very pretty servant, and was quite happy.

Rachel Smithers had a friend named Becky Perkins, who lived cook with a whimsical old gentleman, that was very hard to please indeed, though he was in the main a good sort of man. She used to vent her complaints to Rachel, who always desired her to stay in her place, since she had the opportunity of serving God, and going to church, which she might not have every where. "That," said Rachel, "is now the first thing I think of, when I hire myself; for you know, it is *the one thing needful*. If servants go out into the world, as there are many tempers in it, and nobody is without faults, they must not expect always to have their master and mistress quite agreeable; but, if they are not wicked, one should not mind a few odd humours."

"Masters and mistresses have often a deal more to disturb their minds than servants have. Sometimes a large business to manage, which brings many a care; and sometimes their children give them trouble and vexation. A servant should consider all this, and think how many hours a master and mistress often lie awake, to contrive about providing for the wants of those that depend on them, while their men and maids are sound asleep, quite free from care. For my part, when I see a master or mistress fret, and hear them find fault without cause as it seems, I always think to myself—Poor souls! something or other vexes them; so I never give a saucy answer, but try all I can to please them; and many and many a time have I gained good-will by this means; but if I had not, I should have known I was pleasing God, who would reward me in another world, for trying to do my duty in this. I never approved of rambling about

about from service to service; for, as the old saying is, *a rolling stone never gathers moss.* So I would advise you, Becky, to stay with the old gentleman."

Becky at last took a resolution that she would not fret at her master's humours, nor answer again when he was pettish: and she soon found the difference, for he did not scold half so much; often made her little presents; and, when he died, left her a legacy.

C H A P. XXII.

THERE was another young woman who lived nursery-maid at Mr. Richardson's the apothecary, with whom Rachel and Kitty became acquainted, by her bringing the children sometimes to Mrs. Brown's: her name was Nanny Burton. She was a very good-natured girl, and fond of the children; but had many foolish ways with them; these Rachel, who had been a nursery-maid herself, and was an experienced, and really a sensible servant, observed, and thought, as Mr. Richardson was a great deal from home, and the little dears had lost their mamma, it would be an act of kindness to tell her of them. One of these faults was, making a favourite of the youngest child, and suffering it to tyrannize over the elder ones. This was certainly very wrong; and Rachel told Nanny that it was not only unjust to the others, but cruel to the child itself, which, if suffered to have its own way in that manner, would as it grew up be unhappy and a plague to every body. "If one child must be above the others," said Rachel, "it is natural, I think, to let it be the eldest; but, for my part, I would treat all alike."

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Another silly custom Nanny had, was talking nonsense to the children, and answering them in such kind of words as babies speak when they first try to talk. This Rachel blamed her for very much, but owned she had the same fault herself, till Mr. Elderton broke her of it in a very droll way; she said she should never forget it as long as she lived. It was one summer's day that her master and mistress were going to see an uncle who lived about twenty miles off, and she was to go in the coach with them, and carry her young master in her lap: "Just as I was getting in," said she, "my master said—Now Rachel, let us have none of your nonsense; if you do, I shall find a method of curing you of it for the future: so I promised I would not say a silly word all the way, if I could help it. Luckily for me, the child slept great part of the journey, and of course I held my tongue; but as soon as the dear little soul opened its eyes, and began to look about, I quite forgot myself, and called out—*Georgy Porgy, Deary Peary, Ridy Pidy, Coachby Poachy!* and should have gone on with the same kind of stuff, if my master had not immediately stopped the coachman; and, taking the child in his own lap, ordered me to get out, for he said he had rather nurse twelve hours than be shut up in a coach half of one, to hear such gibberish; so poor I was obliged to walk the other ten miles all in the broiling heat: and this made me remember talking nonsense to children; and I think I shall never talk so again."

"To say the truth," added Rachel, "though I was very mad at the time, I do not think my master was to blame; for it must be very provoking to gentlefolks, who mean to give their children good learning and wish to have them clever as soon as they can, to have them taught by their nurses to talk such nonsense as no one can understand."

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"What you say is very true, Rachel," said Kitty. "Why, there is Miss Hannah White, that visits at our house, who is eleven years old, often makes her mamma blush in company at hearing her lisp, and speak many words like a baby; which I dare say is owing to her having had nonsense talked to her in the nursery, for I perceive she can speak otherwise when she tries. It is a sad thing for a young lady to be served so; but it may be still worse for young gentlemen, as nobody knows what they may be when they grow up to man's estate: and it is my belief, that the reason so many parsons speak so badly in the pulpit, is owing first of all to this very thing: therefore, if ever I live nursery-maid, I am determined it shall not be said of me, that I helped to spoil a good parson; for one of my first cares shall be to make children speak plainly."

Nanny owned that what they said was very true, though she had not thought of it before. She was sure the children were as dear to her as if they were her own, and she would do the best she could by them.

"Well, then," said Rachel, "shall I tell you of some other things that I would not do?" "Yes, and thank you too," said Nanny; "for I am not above learning." Rachel then added, that she had several times heard her threaten the children, when naughty, that an old man should take them. "My master, that I told you of before," said she, "was dreadfully angry with me once for that, and said I was a fool for frightening children, and wicked in setting them against old men, for they ought from their cradles to be taught to reverence the aged; and the scriptures say as much: to be sure my master was very right!"

"Yes," said Kitty, "that he was: I hate, for my part, to hear old folks made bugbears of; we should not like to be served so ourselves."

" Well, but," cried Nanny, " how shall I manage the children, if I must neither humour nor frighten them? Then I had need spend a mint of money in cakes and sugar-plums, to bribe them to be good."

" No," said Rachel, " that is as wrong a thing as you can do; it makes children covetous and mean-spirited to bribe them: they should be taught to do right, because they ought to do so, and for fear of God Almighty being angry with them. And, as for cakes and sugar-plums, they are nasty poisonous things, and do children harm; so I would never let them taste them.

" I will tell you a better way than bribing them: never do any thing for children when they cry, or speak unhandsomely; nor let them have any thing that will hurt them, but keep your own temper, that they may see you don't deny them out of ill-nature; and, when they are good, do every thing to please them that is proper to be done: and I dare say you will have greater command of them than you have now.

" But, above all things, Nanny, never deceive children, but speak the truth to them, as strictly as you would wish others to speak it to you. I declare, one would suppose, from the way in which some folks talk to children, that they take them all for natural fools, without understanding; but they have more sense than these people think for, and take notice of all that is said or done; or else how, you know, could they learn to talk and know the meaning of so many words as they do when they are so young? My master was very particular about this matter; and it would have been as much as my place was worth, to have promised a child any thing without performing it; for, he said, children try to imitate what they hear and see in grown people, and

and therefore all about them should set good examples."

Nanny was very thankful for this advice; and followed it so, that by degrees she became a most excellent nursery-maid, brought up all the children, who were friends to her as long as she lived, and her master rewarded her very handsomely.

Another young woman to whom Rachel and Kitty were of great use, was Lucy Becket: she was a very clever handy girl, but, knowing her own abilities, she over valued them so, that she would not bear the least fault to be found with her, without giving warning, by which means she frequently threw herself out of place; but being known as a useful servant, she was hired first by one and then by another, till she lived with several people in the village, who were in turn obliged to part with her for the insolence abovementioned: at last she was hired by Mrs. Hemming, a lady who treated her servants with proper kindness and indulgence, but who would not put up with any impertinence. This place was a very profitable one and quite suitable to Lucy in every respect, yet she foolishly gave warning as usual on some trifling occasion, and in an instant after repented of her imprudence, and hoped that by civil behaviour she should induce her mistress to pass by this fault unnoticed, for she was far from wishing to go away: however, Mrs. Hemming behaved with such coolness, as plainly shewed her displeasure. Quite frightened with the thoughts that she should lose a good place, Lucy took occasion to consult Rachel and Kitty, who blamed her very much, and advised her to beg pardon. "No," replied Lucy, "that shall never be said of me, I will not be so mean spirited as that." "Do you call it mean spirited to confess a fault?" cried Kitty, "I think it is much more so to be obstinate." "Very true," said Rachel, "it is certainly very wrong for any

body to throw themselves out of a good service, rather than shew proper humility. Surely it may be called tempting God Almighty ; for if his providence places people where they may be happy, and they will not, can they expect his blessing will follow them if they wilfully throw themselves out of it ? I have known several girls act like you, Lucy, who lived to repent it, as I fear you will do." "I fancy she will soon have reason," answered Kitty, "for I heard my mistress say, that all the gentlefolk in the village were surprized when Mrs. Hemming hired Lucy, as her character for changing was so well known ; and after leaving so good a place, I don't think any one here will hire her, so I would advise her to humble herself." "It is certainly her duty to do so Lucy," said Rachel, "for giving warning in a pet, is one of the greatest insults that can be offered to a mistress, and does not at all agree with God's command to submit to all one's betters ; for my part, if at any time I should wish to change my place, I should endeavour to tell my mistress so with all the civility in my power." Lucy said that she was afraid the other servants would laugh at her, if she should offer to humble herself. "Never mind if they do," said Kitty. "Better be laughed at for doing right, than suffer for doing wrong." In short, these good girls used so many arguments that Lucy's pride gave way, and she returned home with a resolution to ask her mistress's pardon, but her foolish spirit rose up again and prevented her every time she had an opportunity ; at last she got up her heart to speak, when to her great mortification, her mistress told her she had hired a servant. Lucy was exceedingly vexed indeed, and opened her heart to her two friends as they walked from church the next Sunday, who admonished her to behave as well as possible while she staid with her mistress, which was very serviceable advice, for she intended to give herself a great

great many airs. At length the time came for her to be discharged, and she begged her mistress to give her a character. "That I certainly will do," said Mrs. Hemming, "and shall speak as favourably as I can of you Lucy, but it is my rule never to conceal any capital fault, because I wish in hiring a servant to be treated with candour myself; however, I shall not fail when I name yours, to mention your submissive behaviour since." Lucy went away with an aching heart, resolving never more to throw herself out of a good place by her folly, but it was not her luck to get a good one, for her next mistress was proud, passionate and stingy; however, by the encouragement of Kitty and Rachel, she bore every disagreeable circumstance with patience for a long while, and afterwards was hired into a very good family, where she behaved well and lived happily.

What an advantage it was to Molly Banks, Becky Perkins, Nanny Burton, and Lucy Becket, to have such friends as Kitty and Rachel! Had they fallen in the way of many servants, they would have been set against good places, and perhaps would never have settled as long as they lived.

Whatever stations of life people are in, they must expect to meet with some things agreeable and some disagreeable, and should strive to make the best of their condition. We did not come into the world to be perfectly happy, but to prepare us for a better: the more patiently we bear the evils that fall to our lot, the greater share of comfort we shall enjoy here; and, if we practise this patience in obedience to the command of God Almighty, and in imitation of our blessed Saviour's example, we shall obtain the greater share of happiness in the other world.

C H A P. XXIII.

THOMAS's chief acquaintances were the clerk of the parish and the exciseman, for he wished to keep company with those from whom he knew he could improve himself. The clerk taught him to sing anthems, and instructed him in the management of the garden; and Thomas gave the exciseman a little matter to teach him measuring and surveying: and Mr. Allen, the master of the charity-school, to whom Thomas had been a scholar, took notice of him; and he was a man who knew a great deal of the world, and was capable of giving him very good advice. Thomas had not much leisure for going out; but, when he did go, it was always to see one of these worthy people; for he never entered an alehouse, nor played at any idle games: and on these accounts his friends the clerk and exciseman were always welcome to a cup of Mr. Brown's ale, for they had free liberty to treat them.

One evening when Thomas was regaling his friend the exciseman, he began relating what an account Rachel had given of London places, and expressed his satisfaction that his lot was cast in the country; on which the exciseman replied, that Thomas had reason to be thankful, and he hoped he would always have a proper sense of his happiness in having such a worthy master and mistress, and not suffer himself to be persuaded to leave them. "It was my good fortune," added he, "to have such myself, though my master was not a parson, but in trade. He took me first a lad (as you might be, Thomas, when you came to Mr. Brown's) and he and my mistress, were as good as a father and mother to me. I had a brother who went out to service

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as I did, but he was of a roving temper, and often changed his place with a view to better himself, and would fain have persuaded me to do the same, but I could not get up my heart to leave my master and mistress, and their children; so I kept on contented with moderate wages: in the mean time my brother flashed away, first as a footman in a fine livery, then as valet de chambre, and so on; but wherever he went he was always looking out for something better, and never staid long enough in a place to make a friend; at last he was seized with the rheumatism very badly, and became a cripple, and for sometime was in a workhouse, till I got up in the world, and was able to help him, and now he lives a burden upon me."

"And did you never change place at all?" said Thomas. "No," answered the exciseman, "I kept on steadily with the same master and mistress, who by degrees raised my wages as much as they could afford, and gave me good instruction, which proved of more value than money, for they taught me my duty to God and man; and at last, my master got the place for me which I now enjoy; besides this, all his sons and daughters are very good to me, and make me many presents, and I have the comfort to think, that in case I should be in distress, I have no less than ten good friends to help me."

"That is a comfort indeed," replied Thomas, "and thank God I may reckon upon four: my master and mistress, Master Charles and Miss Fanny. But pray tell me, Mr. Thornton, was your place in London or in the country?"

"In London," replied the exciseman.

"I am glad to hear it," said Thomas, "for with what I heard from Rachel, and saw at Lord Townly's, I began to think that London is a dreadful place indeed."

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"It is bad enough to be sure," said Mr. Thornton, "but there are a great many good people in it for all that, and it would be a pity that such should not get good servants. I think, a lad who is well settled in the country is much the safest, but if any one has a mind to go to town, he may live very comfortably there, provided he gets into a sober, regular family; but it is dreadfully dangerous indeed, to go and live there by one's own hands or in disorderly families, as the town is full of temptations for those who have nothing to do, or bad advisers."

"Are all lords and ladies like Lord and Lady Townly?" said Thomas.

"By no means," answered the exciseman, "many of them lead good lives and have regular families, and provide very handsomely for their servants, and it is a great honour and happiness to live with them; but there are always people a-naw to catch at such places, and therefore I think it is very wrong for either men or women-servants, who are already comfortably settled with persons in middling stations, to be ambitious of living with great folks. The good ones among these generally have servants recommended by people whom they can depend upon, and therefore do not look out for strangers; and the rest are not worth living with, and deserve no better servants than such as Lord Townly now has."

This discourse of the exciseman strengthened Thomas's resolution to do his utmost, to retain the good opinion of his master and mistress, and he resolved not to listen to any who should try to make him dissatisfied, and he carefully avoided Lord Townly's wicked servants, neither did he keep company with any footmen in the village, as there was not one among them fit to be companion to such a sober religious lad as he was.

C H A P. XXIV.

THOMAS, Kitty, and Rachel, continued to do their duty to their master and mistress for many years. Miss Brown was married; and the young gentleman went to the university. At last, poor Mr. Brown was taken ill, and went into a consumption: I need not say this was a great grief to his family; indeed it was so to the whole parish, for he was an excellent good man.

All his servants made it their constant study how to be serviceable to him and their mistress; and when poor Mrs Brown's affliction rendered her incapable of paying the usual attention to family affairs, they took the utmost care of every thing they had charge of, the same as if the mistress's eye was always over them; because they were not *eye servants*, but considered themselves as in the sight of God Almighty, and bound to be true and just in all their dealings.

Indeed, at all times, these good servants made it a point not to waste and destroy; every thing was kept in its proper place, and applied to the very use it was bought for, and no other. You might go to Mr. Brown's a hundred and a hundred times, and never see plates and dishes set about in a careless way, for dogs and cats to break; and all their dusters, house-cloths, pudding-cloths, &c. were fairly worn out, and as soon as the least hole was discovered, it was mended.

How much more creditable was this to themselves, than if they had, like many servants I have seen, boiled puddings in the dusters, and wiped the floors with the pudding-cloths, and other untidy tricks! which, if a mistress was to see, would set her against all the victuals they dress for her.

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Had you seen the coppers, pewter, and dressers in the kitchen, you would have admired the neatness of the cook ; nay, the very bars of the grate were as bright as silver, at each end : and, as for the dairy, Kitty kept it in such beautiful order, that no one could go into it without wishing to taste her butter and cheese ; and when she cleaned a room, she did not merely scour the floors, but kept the glasses and windows quite bright, and dusted every corner. This neatness was a real credit, and gained the servants who practised it more praise than any ever got by dressing out themselves above their stations. To strive to excel in neatness is a commendable pride. How would Kitty and Betty have been shocked at seeing such kitchens, dairies, and sculleries, as are too common where *fine* maids are kept ! but we were describing the behaviour of Mr. Brown's servants during his illness.

Rachel Smithers, who was an excellent cook, made all the proper messes for him in the nicest manner ; and Kitty did not stay till they were called for, but carried sometimes a jelly, and sometimes beef-tea, &c. in hopes that her master might fancy them if they came without his thinking of them beforehand : and she also watched the clock, that every thing the doctor ordered might be given at the proper hour. Thomas likewise was as punctual with the asses milk : and each of the servants were ready to sit up of nights in turn ; so that there was no occasion to send for a stranger to nurse him ; and Mrs. Brown was relieved from a great deal of fatigue.

Servants, when they are tender-hearted and thoughtful, can afford great comfort to their masters and mistresses in times of affliction, and it is a principal part of their duty to do so ; and yet, how many are there who think themselves at liberty to ramble about and leave their usual business ? If, as the scriptures say,

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he is blessed that provides for the sick and needy, what must they be who neglect them? What dreadful unfeeling hearts servants must have, who will not take pains to please the appetite of the sick, who neglect to air their linen properly, and frequently throw away a mess of broth, and other things, which may be wanted, without considering what they are about. Such people are generally punished, even in this world; for they either fall into families where the masters and mistresses are as unfeeling as themselves, or else, by their ingratitude, harden the hearts of those who would otherwise shew tenderness and compassion towards them; or, if they escape here, how will they answer for such conduct at the last day?

Notwithstanding all the care that was taken of poor Mr. Brown, he died, after a very tedious illness; and, before he expired, being perfectly sensible, he called his servants to his bed-side, and gave them his blessing, at the same time thanking them for their good behaviour, and advising them to continue, through the whole course of their lives, to conduct themselves as they had done in his service, and then they might expect a happy death, for God would surely reward them with eternal happiness.

The grief of these servants was very great for the loss of so excellent a master; but they did not give way to their sorrow so as to disable themselves from doing their business; they considered that their poor mistress's loss was still greater than theirs, and turned their attention to her; which was the more necessary, as neither of her children were with her; for Miss Brown, who was married, as I said, about three years before, having a little family, was at home at this time, not thinking her dear father so near his end; and the young gentleman happened to be at the university: however, they both came shortly after;

and then Mr. Brown's will was opened, in which was the following article—

"I give and bequeath to my trusty servants, Thomas Simpkins, Rachel Smithers, and Catherine Sparks, five pounds each, for mourning. I also give and bequeath to the said Thomas Simpkins, Rachel Smithers, and Catherine Sparks, twenty-five pounds each, as a recompense for their fidelity and frugality, by which I am sensible they have, in the course of their servitude, saved me a great deal of money. Were my fortune larger, my donation would be so also; but this little will express my affection for them, and, with the blessing of God, will put them forward in the world, or comfort them in sickness or old age; and it is accompanied with my hearty prayers for their present and eternal happiness!"

The manner in which this legacy was given, doubled the value of it to each of the servants; and, in the midst of sorrow, their hearts rejoiced at the kind testimony their dear master had borne to their good behaviour, and they returned thanks to God for having given them grace to do their duty, beseeching him to continue it to them for the time to come.

A new rector was soon appointed; and Mrs. Brown having no longer a right to continue at the parsonage-house, it was resolved that she should go and live with her daughter, as she would have been very lonely by herself. She proposed to take Kitty with her, as her own maid; and it happened that Mrs. Bennet (which was Miss Fanny's name) wanted a cook; therefore she gladly hired Rachel Smithers: but Mrs. Brown had no use for Thomas; and, though she had a genteel income, meant to live frugally, in order to save what she could for her children.

Thomas

Thomas was at a great loss what to do with himself; for the new rector was provided with a footman, and most of the gentry in the neighbourhood had such dissolute servants, who thought of nothing but frolicking and dice, that Thomas had no heart to hire himself among them. For perhaps, thought he, I may be drawn away by their example; and I had rather suffer any thing than forsake God. Neither did he like to go to London in search of a service; for he declared to his friends, that he would not trust himself in such a wicked place, if he was sure that the streets were paved with gold. "What pleasure," said he, "can there be in wearing a ruffled shirt, silk stockings, a fine laced livery, and being a powdered beau, if I must be obliged to lounge away hours of precious time, keep company with gamesters, break the sabbath, hear profane, lewd conversation, or else be laughed at for a foolish fellow, as I have before now been at Lord Townly's."

"No, give me a plain coat, worsted stockings, and other decent apparel, with a good conscience, and time to serve my Maker, and my fellow-creatures; and let who will become fine gentlemen!" He therefore resolved to return to his mother's cottage, and for the present go out to work as a day-labourer, as he had formerly done.

Thomas was ready to break his heart when he took leave of his mistress; and the parting between him and his fellow-servants was very affecting, for they were like brother and sisters: however, they hoped to meet again now and then, as Mrs. Brown gave Thomas leave to come, when it suited him, to see his old companions.

The two maids, by the advice of their mistress, put their legacies out at interest; and Thomas did the same, till he could find some way of employing it to advantage. Not one of the three were at all proud of being worth money. And Thomas with great

cheerfulness offered to work for a farmer ; for though he had been a footman, he was not above driving a cart or a plough ; nay, he thought husbandry an honourable employment ; for, as the scripture says, “*The king himself is served by the field.*” And, “*no one should hate laborious work, neither husbandry, which the Most High hath ordained.*”

Among the books which his dear master had given him, was one called the Husbandman’s Manual*, which he had often read with great pleasure, and now found very useful and comfortable.

When Thomas had worked at this place for some time, he heard of a little farm which was to be let, in a village not many miles distant : this he greatly wished to have, as he had thoughts of marrying Kitty, his late fellow-servant, whose company he had been so long used to, that he could not be happy without it ; and they were both desirous of employing their money in the farming business, rather than to keep a public-house, which is the general resource of gentlemen’s servants, where they sacrifice all their ease and comfort, and run into the temptation of rooting out from their minds every good and religious principle.

Squire Harvy, to whom the farm belonged, was a very generous man ; and, hearing an excellent character of Thomas Simpkins, resolved to admit him as his tenant, and also to advance a sum of money to assist him. He and Kitty were accordingly married, and immediately took possession of the farm. But before I proceed to acquaint my readers, how this worthy couple conducted themselves in this new station, let me entreat them to consider, whether it would not be much better for servants in general to act upon such principles as Thomas Simpkins, Ra-

* Published by Mr. Rivington, for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

chel Smithers, and Kitty Sparks did, than to be like Lord Townly's servants, and too many others, indifferent to the interests of their masters and mistresses, and forgetful of the account they must give of their actions at the great day of judgment! Let me persuade all those whose lot it is to be servants, to follow such good examples as are here exhibited; and make the scriptures the rule of their actions and they will certainly obtain peace of conscience, and a well-grounded hope of everlasting happiness; which will make them rich amends for any disappointments they may chance to meet with in this world. Honesty and fidelity are the most likely means to obtain preferment, and gratuities from their masters on earth; but should these fail to bestow them, the truly christian servant, who has acted upon religious principles, may rest assured, that he shall not lose his reward in heaven; for when the last trumpet shall awaken the dead to life, he will hear his heavenly Master pronounce the comfortable words — “**WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.**”



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